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the knockout makers

VOL. 1

By Kyoko Hashimoto

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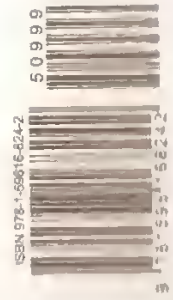

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くわ
...DOESN'T HAVE TIME FOR SUCH RIDICULOUS ACTIVITIES!!
AND THE SCHOOL BIGWIGS PREPARE A BEAUTY CONTEST..
THE JUDO CLUB
ONLY ONE WEEK 'TIL THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL!
WHILE SOME CLUBS ARE PROVIDING SNACK TABLES
ALL RIGHT! BREAK!!
YES, SIR!
HI. I'M KIYO NISHIDA! JUNIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL.
I MAY NOT LOOK IT.. BUT I'M PRETTY TOUGH.
UGH..
TH-THANK GOD

The Knockout Makers

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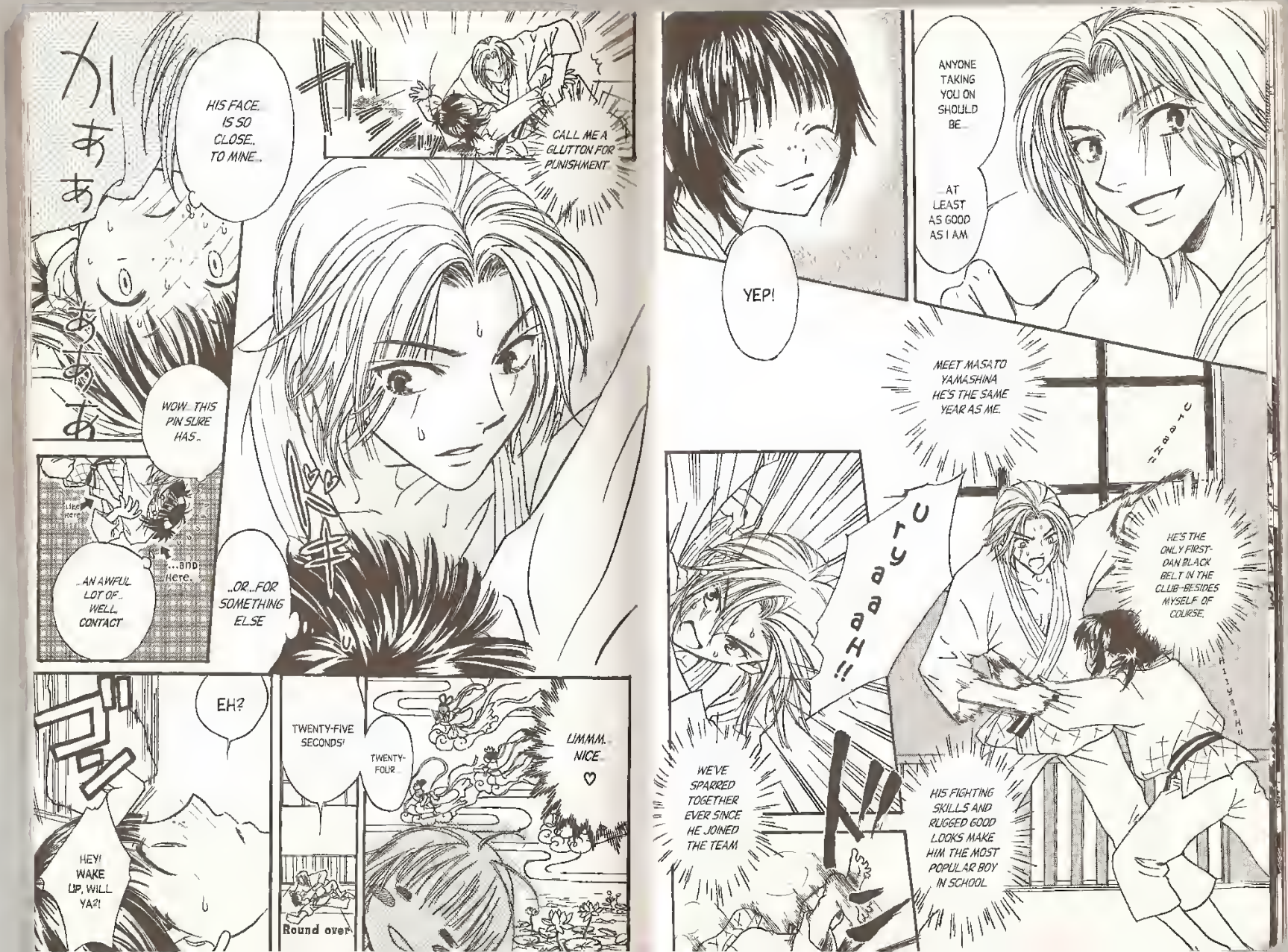
The Knockout Makers

CHAPTER 1

I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE OR ANYTHING COULD RATTLE ME.
KIYO NISHIDAI, HUH?
I'M TOSHIHIRO.
AND THEN HE JUMPED INTO MY LIFE.
YOUR "KNOCKOUT MAKERS" HANDLER.

WELL, SEE YA
OH! OOPS! C-COMING!
NISHIDA!!
WHA
LAUNDRY DUTY!
HEY! I'M NOT DONE TA--
FRIEND OF YOURS?
JUST MET
FIGURES
ドガ!

YOU LOOK CONFUSED ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN THE KNOCKOUT MAKERS
THEIR WEBSITE IS ACCESSIBLE FOR ONLY TEN MINUTES EVERYDAY AT MIDNIGHT ONLY A FEW CLIENTS ARE PICKED
..ARE THE ALLIES OF PRETTY GIRLS.
THOSE LUCKY FEW ARE THEN PAID A VISIT BY AESTHETIC SPECIALISTS.
SO ..MR K.O.M. BOY YOU'RE A TEENAGER, RIGHT?
TRUE, I'M ONLY SIXTEEN I GRADUATED ALREADY
THIS IS MY OFFICIAL KM UNIFORM
SO WHAT--IS THIS AN AFTER SCHOOL HOBBY? LIKE THE JUNIOR FASHION POLICE?
WHAT?!
SORRY CHARLIE-- BUT NO THANKS
...I ACCEPT YOUR RECENT REQUEST FOR HELP!
ANYWAY, AFTER CAREFUL DELIBERATION
THIS SMELLS FISHIER THAN A WEEK OLD SUSHI ROLL.
THERE YOU ARE..!
HUH?
Ahem!


ANYONE TAKING YOU ON SHOULD BE...
...AT LEAST AS GOOD AS I AM.
YEP!
MEET MASATO YAMASHINA HE'S THE SAME YEAR AS ME.
HE'S THE ONLY FIRST-DAN BLACK BELT IN THE CLUB--BESIDES MYSELF, OF COURSE.
HIS FIGHTING SKILLS AND RUGGED GOOD LOOKS MAKE HIM THE MOST POPULAR BOY IN SCHOOL.
WE'VE SPARRED TOGETHER EVER SINCE HE JOINED THE TEAM
HIS FACE IS SO CLOSE.. TO MINE...
CALL ME A GLUTTON FOR PUNISHMENT
WOW.. THIS PIN SURE HAS..
...AN AWFUL LOT OF.. WELL, CONTACT
...AND here.
..OR..FOR SOMETHING ELSE
EH?
HEY! WAKE UP, WILL YA?!
TWENTY-FIVE SECONDS!
TWENTY-FOUR
UMMM.. NICE ♡
Round over

WORD IS IT'S RIKAKO THIS YEAR
SERIOUSLY?! RIKAKO'S GONNA BE IN A BIKINI?! AND WHO SAID THERE ISN'T A GOD?!
Whoaaa!!
LAST YEAR'S QUEEN HAD A HUGE RACK, YA KNOW?
YOU BET! I'VE ALREADY GOT PHOTOS OF HER IN HER UNDIES! ♡
WHAT'S WRONG NISHIDA!?
NO ONE'S THE LEAST BIT INTERESTED IN LOOKING AT IT!
IF IT'S YOUR CHEST... DON'T WORRY
.....
Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha
SURE, I'M A GIRL, TOO..
HUH?
JUST NOT WHEN IT COMES TO BOYS
YAAAAAH!!!
YOO HOO! KIYO!
YOU FORGOT THIS!
gasp
OH! R-RIKAKO!
MY BODY JUST FROZE...!
BUT I DIDN'T MEAN TO--!
NEVER-MIND
AHa Ha Ha Ha! (OH BOY...!)
I HATE WHEN YOU DO THAT!
LOOK I KNOW YOU'RE A HIGHER RANK THAN ME AND ALL, BUT THAT'S NO EXCUSE TO GIVE ME SLACK!
DARN IT!
OW
I'M GLAD HE'S INTO JUDO
I'M ACTUALLY BETTER AT IT THAN YAMASHINA
NISHIDA!! YOU'RE EARLY!
EEP!!
OH...!
Ha ha ha ha!
BUT.
JUDO CLUB LOCKER ROOM
CLOSED
HAW! WHAT AM I? A GLEE CLUB MEMBER?! PFFT!
OOOH YES! I JUST LOOOVE BEAUTY CONTESTS!

I TOLD YOU, I WORK IN THESE!
SO I SEE YOU'RE STILL COSPLAYING EH?
MAN, WISH I COULD HAVE THESE EARRINGS
They'd really bring out my eyes
NYAH!
BE MY GUEST.
EEEK!!
WH-WHERE DID YOU..?!
THAT'S SOME PRETTY EARRING YOU GOT THERE
PRETTY SILLY OF ME, HUH?
Ha Ha Ha!
HUH?
W-WAIT..
WHAT ARE Y--
SHH!
.....
Gasp!
BUT ONCE I GOT THEM HOME THEY JUST LOOKED WELL.. WRONG
THEY WERE AN IMPULSE BUY, ANYWAY THEY LOOKED CUTE IN THE STORE..
..SO, BEING CAUGHT UP IN THE MOMENT, I ASKED K.O.M FOR HELP
..AND FEELING KIND OF BUMMED I THOUGHT I WANTED TO BE MORE LIKE RIKAKO
SEE, ONE NIGHT I WAS UP LATE.
AHa Ha Ha Ha!
YOU'D THINK I'D BE USED TO IT BY NOW, BUT
OHHH...!
SMEXY
NISHIDAI, CHECK IT OUT!
YEP, TO THEM, I'M JUST ANOTHER ONE OF THE GUYS
CAN'T SAY I BLAME THEM, THOUGH I'M PLAIN, MY VOICE IS WAY TO DEEP
..AND I'M SECOND DAN-- AND EVEN CAME IN SECOND IN THE LAST TOURNAMENT
AHa Ha Ha Ha!
Ha Ha!
Ack!
BUT.. MAYBE..
Oh my.. tee hee!
Not good!
THOUGH WITH THIS FLAT CHEST, THAT'S A TALL ORDER
HUH.....
..IF I WAS MORE LIKE RIKAKO..
Crackle

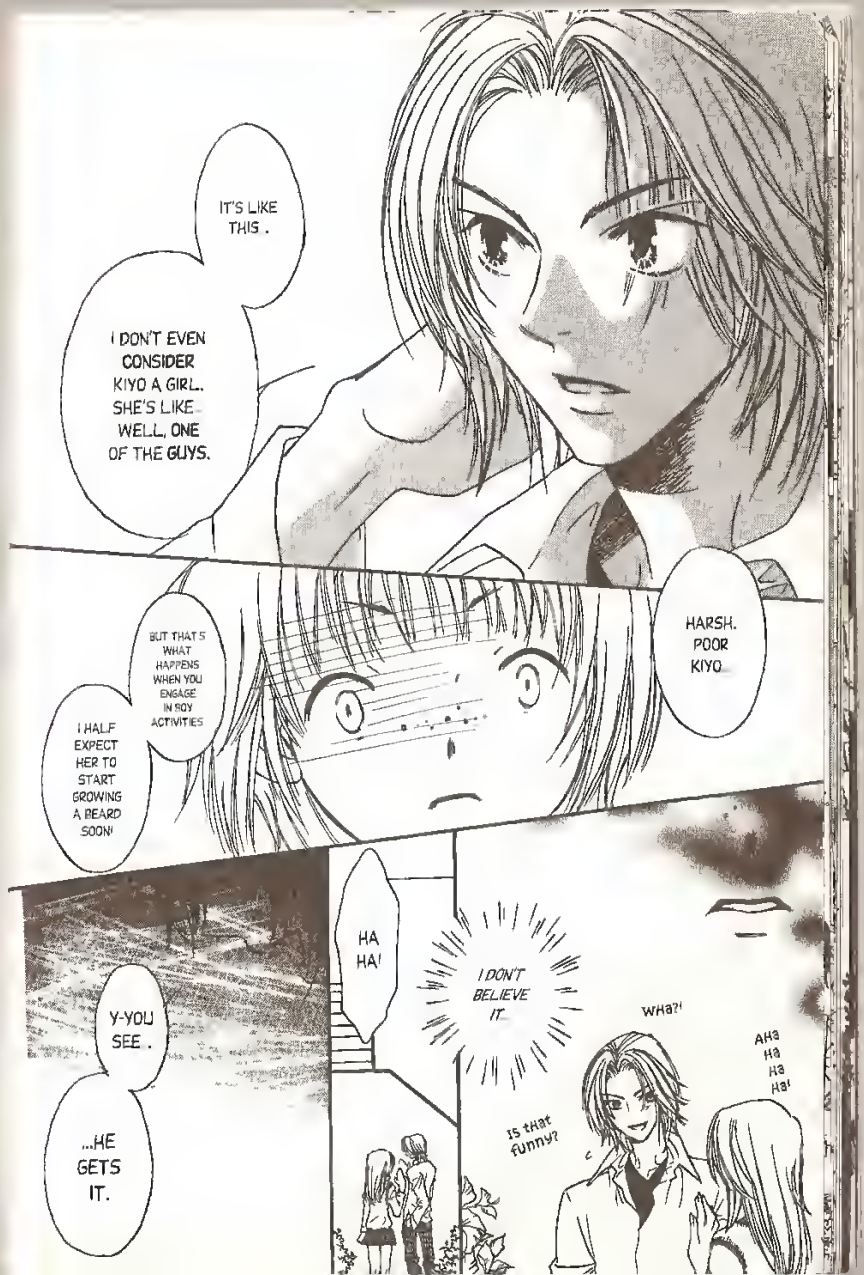
THAT GOES FOR ALL STONES.
...I DON'T...
BUT...
!
IF YOU DON'T TAKE CARE OF IT...
...YOU SHALL NEVER SEE ITS TRUE BRILLIANCE.
KIYO NISHIDAI, YOU ARE SUCH A GEM.
YOUR INNER RADIANCE MUST BE ALLOWED TO SHINE THROUGH
YOU CAN WIN THE BEAUTY CONTEST TRUST ME
...YOU WILL NEVER HAVE TO SETTLE FOR SECOND BEST EVER AGAIN
BECAUSE IF WE CAN GET YOUR OUTSIDE APPEARANCE TO MATCH YOUR INNER BEAUTY...
YOU WON'T REGRET IT, I PROMISE.

!
WHAT'S SHE...?
I ASSURE YOU THIS IS QUITE NORMAL.
LOOK!! HOW FAST SHE'S MOVING!
unbelievable!
YEAH ...?
QUIET JUST WATCH
WE'RE WATCHING...
...RIKAKO?
WAIT - WHY ARE WE HIDING?!
SHE NEVER FIXES HERSELF UP IN FRONT OF OTHERS
THIS IS STUPID!
HUH?
SHE NEVER WANTS TO BE SEEN AS ANYTHING BUT BEAUTIFUL.
THE MORE YOU POLISH A JEWEL...
...THE GREATER THE SHINE WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?
SHE WASN'T ALWAYS THIS FAST. THIS USED TO TAKE HER TWENTY MINUTES
AND JUST LOOK AT HER NOW...NOW, SHE IS HER OWN WORK OF ART

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
SO?
WHY AM I HIDING?
OH MASATO
...I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE REALLY COOL
AND I'LL WAIT FOR YOUR ANSWER UNTIL AFTER THE CONTEST
WHY IS HE...?
HUH? NISHIDA!?
NO WAY!
I'm a little jealous! ♡
YOU'RE ALWAYS TRAINING TOGETHER
YAMASHINA KUN'S QUITE THE POPULAR ONE EH?
ANSWER?
THAT'S CRAZY!
MAY I ASK..? D-DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
KIYO, PERHAPS..?

Got flipped again.
N-NO!!
MUST.. STAY.. CALM..
GASP!
G-Gotta Go! Nature calls!
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
B--
BUT..
pheromones?
!
ANY WAY..
I DON'T REALLY WANNA CHANGE NOW
MASATO-!!
over here!
OH..
SORRY TO CALL YOU OVER..
YAMA-SHINA?

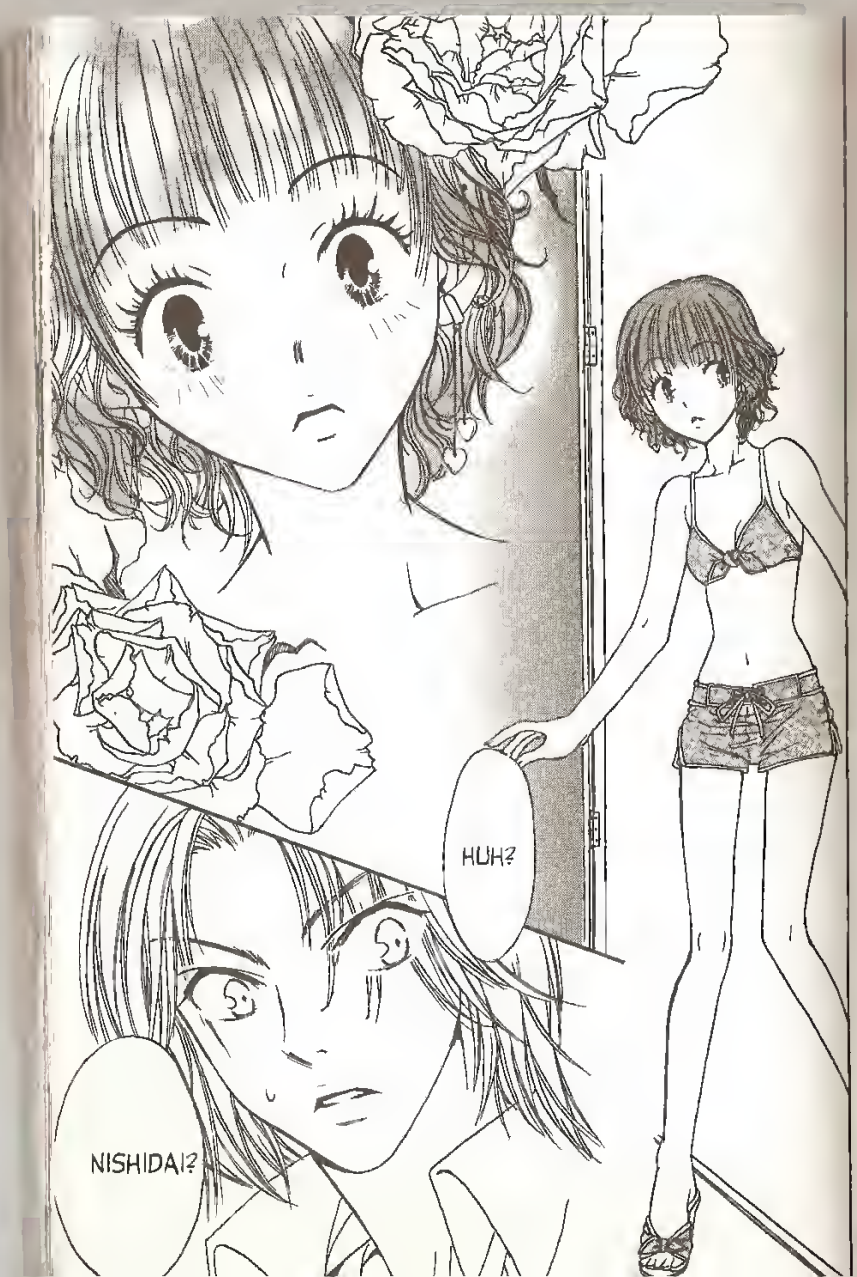
I'M N-NOT A GIRL! HEH...
WH-WHAT? IT'S NOT LIKE I DIDN'T KNOW! PFFT!
I-I ALWAYS KN-KNEW HE DIDN'T SEE ME THAT WAY...
OR EVEN.. LIKE... M-ME
HEH HEH...
I'M THE FIRST PERSON TO GET D-DUMPED BEFORE ACTUALLY DATING THE PERSON F-FIRST...
I-I NEVER TOLD HIM, Y'SEE... I N-NEVER T-TOLD HIM ANYTHING...
MUST BE SOME KINDA R-RECORD, RIGHT?
B-AS


IT'S LIKE THIS.
I DON'T EVEN CONSIDER KIYO A GIRL. SHE'S LIKE... WELL, ONE OF THE GUYS.
HARSH. POOR KIYO...
BUT THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ENGAGE IN BOY ACTIVITIES
I HALF EXPECT HER TO START GROWING A BEARD SOON!
HA HA!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT...
WHA?!
AHA Ha Ha Ha!
IS THAT FUNNY?
Y-YOU SEE.
...HE GETS IT.

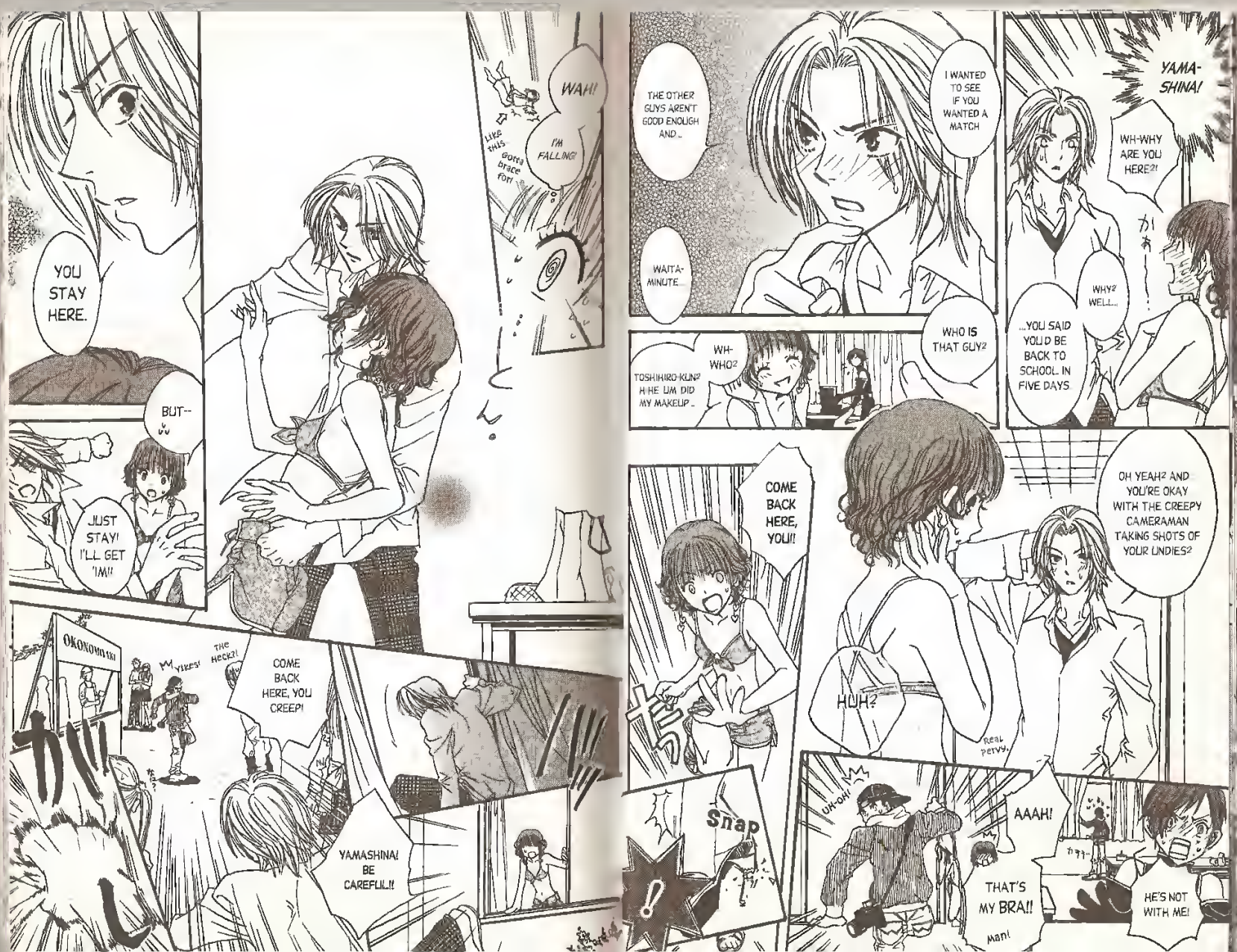
ON BEHALF OF THE KNOCKOUT MAKERS, WE HEARTILY ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE.
WE WILL WHIP YOU INTO DIVA-LIKE SHAPE! IN FIVE DAYS TIME.
YOU SHALL ENTER THAT BEAUTY CONTEST— AND WIN!!

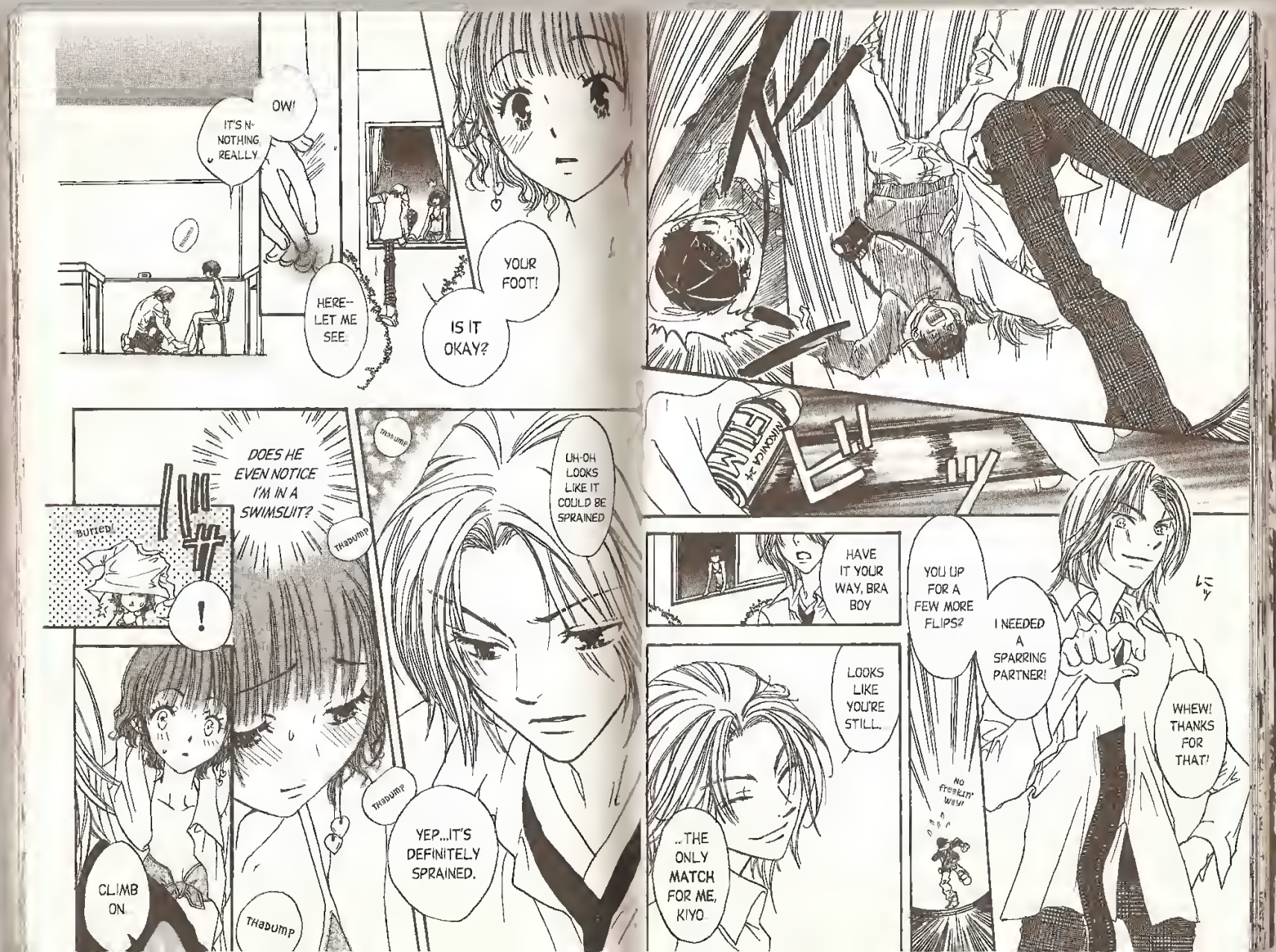
I WANNA TELL YAMASHINA THAT I LOVE HIM!!
BECAUSE IF SO--I WANNA CHANGE!
I WANNA BE A REAL GIRL!!
HEY TOSHI-HIRO-KUN
IF I WON THE CONTEST.
...DO YOU THINK YAMASHINA WOULD THEN SEE ME AS A GIRL?
NOW HOW CAN WE SAY NO...
...TO SUCH A HEARTFELT REQUEST?

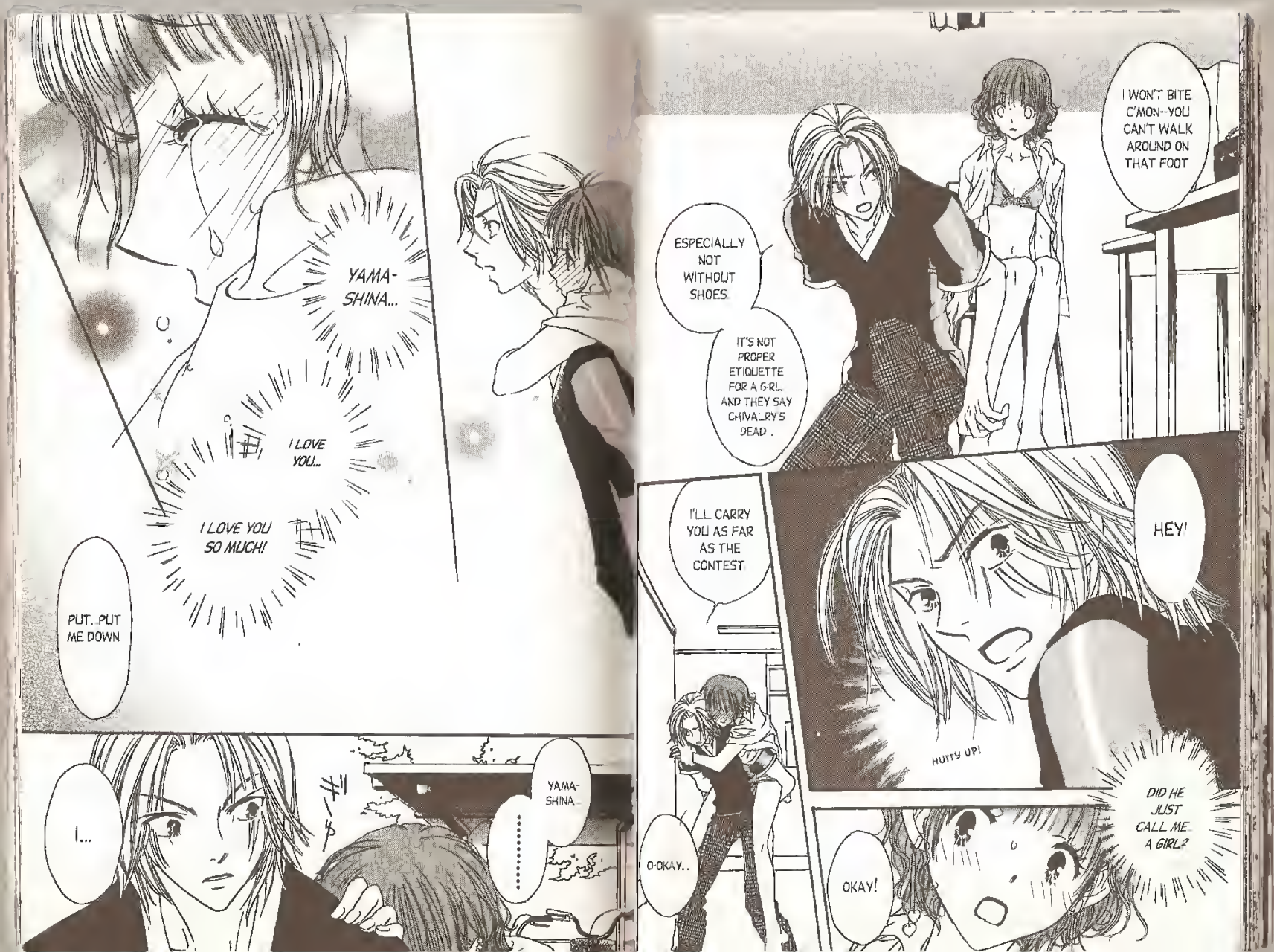
ADD ASH PEACH COLORING...
A DASH OF AN EYE-CATCHING LONG ROD PERM NUANCE...
AS WELL AS FEW LAYERS CUT FOR SOFTNESS
THAT IS WHY I, THE GREAT NOBUO, AM A HAIRDO SPECIALIST, GIRL!
UTILIZING COLLAGELLANT, NATURAL AMINO ACIDS AND SEAWEED EXTRACT SPECIAL CARE...
YOU'LL LEARN HOW TO MAKE YOUR HAIR AND SCALP MOISTURIZED AND HEALTHY!
...THAT HAIR FORMS SEVENTY PERCENT OF A PERSON'S FIRST IMPRESSION?
FUN FACT XIYO DID YOU KNOW
AND ME? I'LL HANDLE THE FINAL MAKEUP APPLICATION
EYELASH CURL, PLUS SOME MASCARA... CHECK
WHITE PEARL MASCARA ON THE LIPS FOR HIGHLIGHT CHECK
A FEW FINAL TOUCHES AND WHA-LA!
YOU'RE RUNWAY READY AND DOWN WITH LOVE!
WELCOME TO OUR SALON!
FIRST THINGS FIRST...
WE'RE HERE.
YOU CAN OPEN YOUR EYES NOW
TO CLEAN OUT THOSE OILY PORES...
...WE'LL LATHER IT WITH WARM WATER AND RINSE WITH COLD
VC AND IONS WILL SINK IN THROUGH OSMOSIS
CHEMICAL TREATMENT WILL BEAUTIFY INSIDE AS WELL AS OUT
OKAY RYOUHEI-- THAT'S ENOUGH
HONEY THOSE PORES ARE AS CLOGGED AS THE LOCKER ROOM TOILET
LET'S SAY WE PLUNGER THOSE PORES...
...WITH A BIT OF SKIN TREATMENT?
NOTHING WILTS ITS PETALS FASTER THAN OILY SKIN
BECAUSE WHEN IT COMES TO A BUDDING ROMANCE...

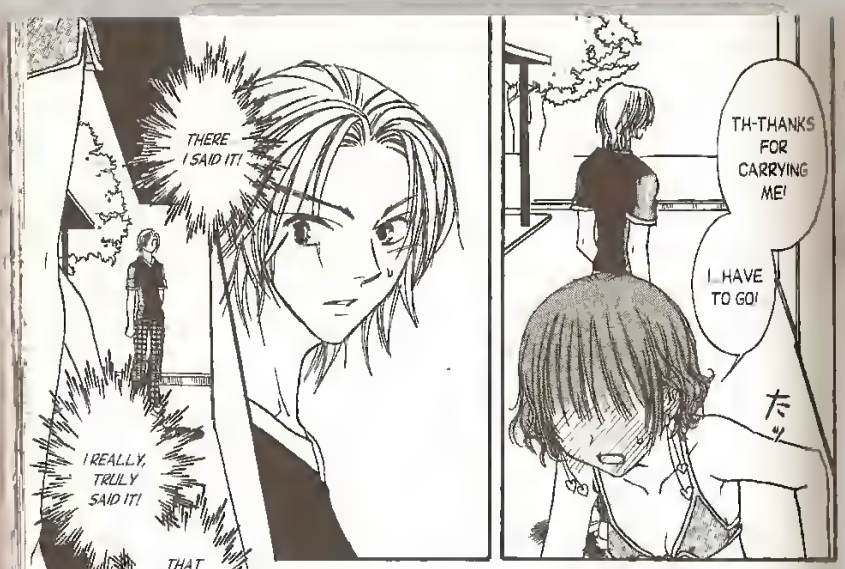

NISHIDA!?
HUH?

creak
...GO KNOCK HIM OUT!
NOW.


YOU STAY HERE.
BUT--
JUST STAY! I'LL GET 'IM!!
WAH!
I'M FALLING!
Like this
Gotta brace for!
OKONOMIYAKI
YIKES!
THE HECK?!
COME BACK HERE, YOU CREEP!
YAMASHINA! BE CAREFUL!!
THE OTHER GUYS AREN'T GOOD ENOUGH AND...
I WANTED TO SEE IF YOU WANTED A MATCH
WAIT A MINUTE...
WHO IS THAT GUY?
TOSHIHIRO-KUN? H-HE UM DID MY MAKEUP...
WH-WHO?
YAMA-SHINA!
WH-WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
WHY? WELL...
...YOU SAID YOU'D BE BACK TO SCHOOL IN FIVE DAYS
COME BACK HERE, YOU!!
Snap
!
OH YEAH? AND YOU'RE OKAY WITH THE CREEPY CAMERAMAN TAKING SHOTS OF YOUR UNDIES?
HUH?
Real pervy.
UH-OH!
AAAH!
THAT'S MY BRA!!
Man!
HE'S NOT WITH ME!


OW!
IT'S N-NOTHING REALLY
HERE--LET ME SEE
YOUR FOOT!
IS IT OKAY?
DOES HE EVEN NOTICE I'M IN A SWIMSUIT?
Buttrd
!
THADUMP
THADUMP
THADUMP
UH-OH LOOKS LIKE IT COULD BE SPRAINED
YEP...IT'S DEFINITELY SPRAINED.
CLIMB ON
HAVE IT YOUR WAY, BRA BOY
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE STILL..
..THE ONLY MATCH FOR ME, KIYO
YOU UP FOR A FEW MORE FLIPS?
I NEEDED A SPARRING PARTNER!
WHEW! THANKS FOR THAT!
No freakin' way!

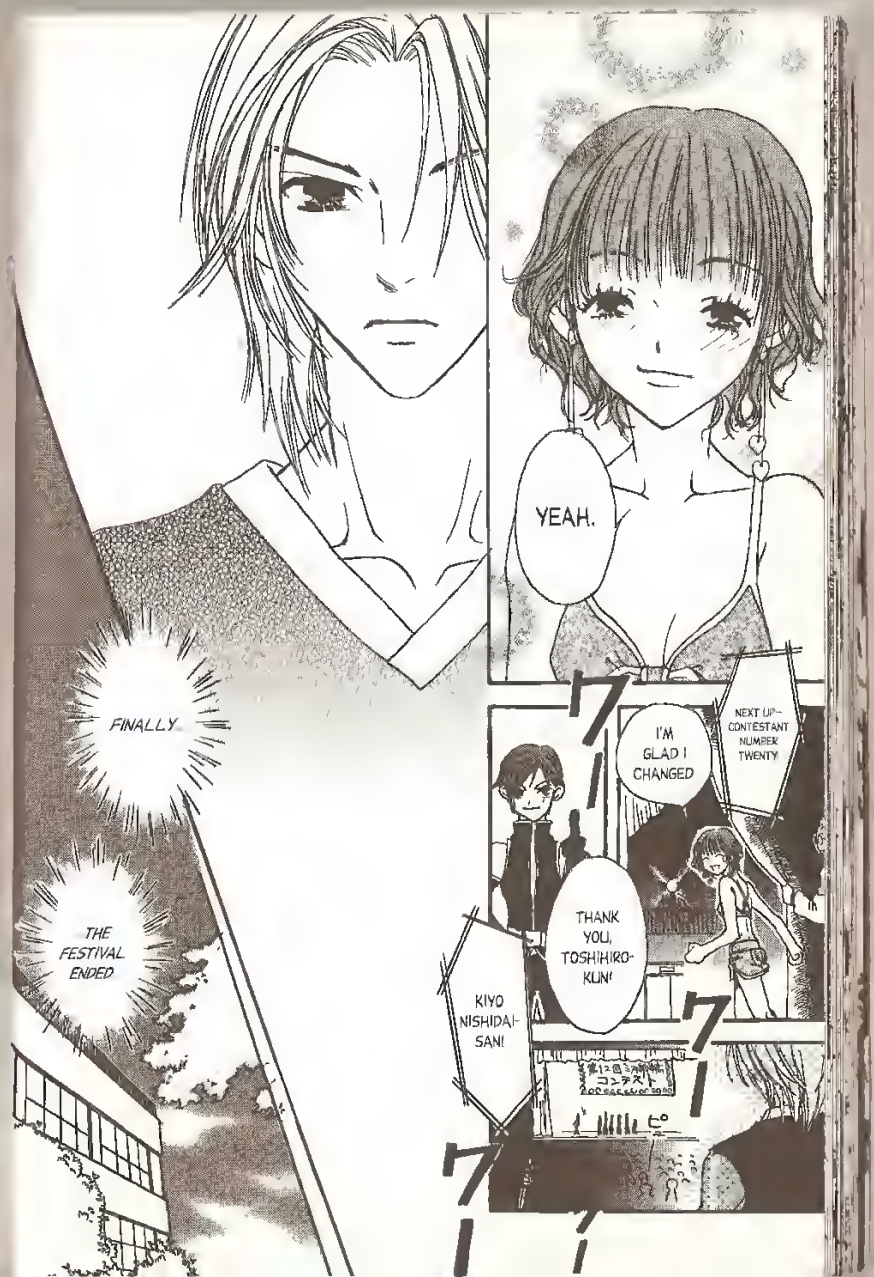

I WON'T BITE. C'MON--YOU CAN'T WALK AROUND ON THAT FOOT
ESPECIALLY NOT WITHOUT SHOES.
IT'S NOT PROPER ETIQUETTE FOR A GIRL. AND THEY SAY CHIVALRY'S DEAD.
I'LL CARRY YOU AS FAR AS THE CONTEST.
HEY!
HURRY UP!
DID HE JUST CALL ME A GIRL?
OKAY!
O-OKAY..
YAMA-SHINA...
I LOVE YOU...
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!
PUT..PUT ME DOWN
YAMA-SHINA...
I...

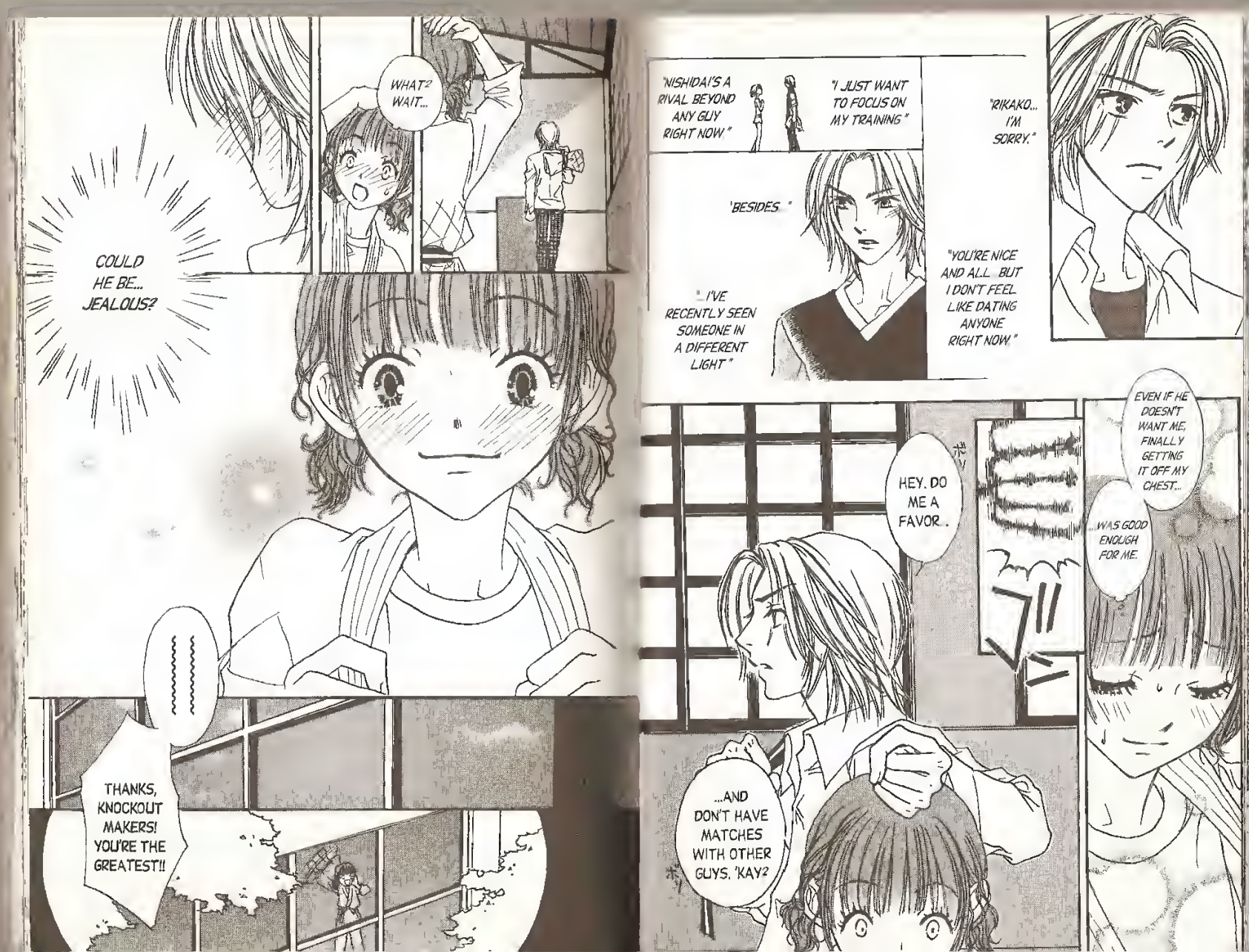

THERE I SAID IT!
I REALLY, TRULY SAID IT!
THAT STRANGE LOOK ON HIS FACE... WHAT DID IT MEAN?!
TH-THANKS FOR CARRYING ME!
I...HAVE TO GO!

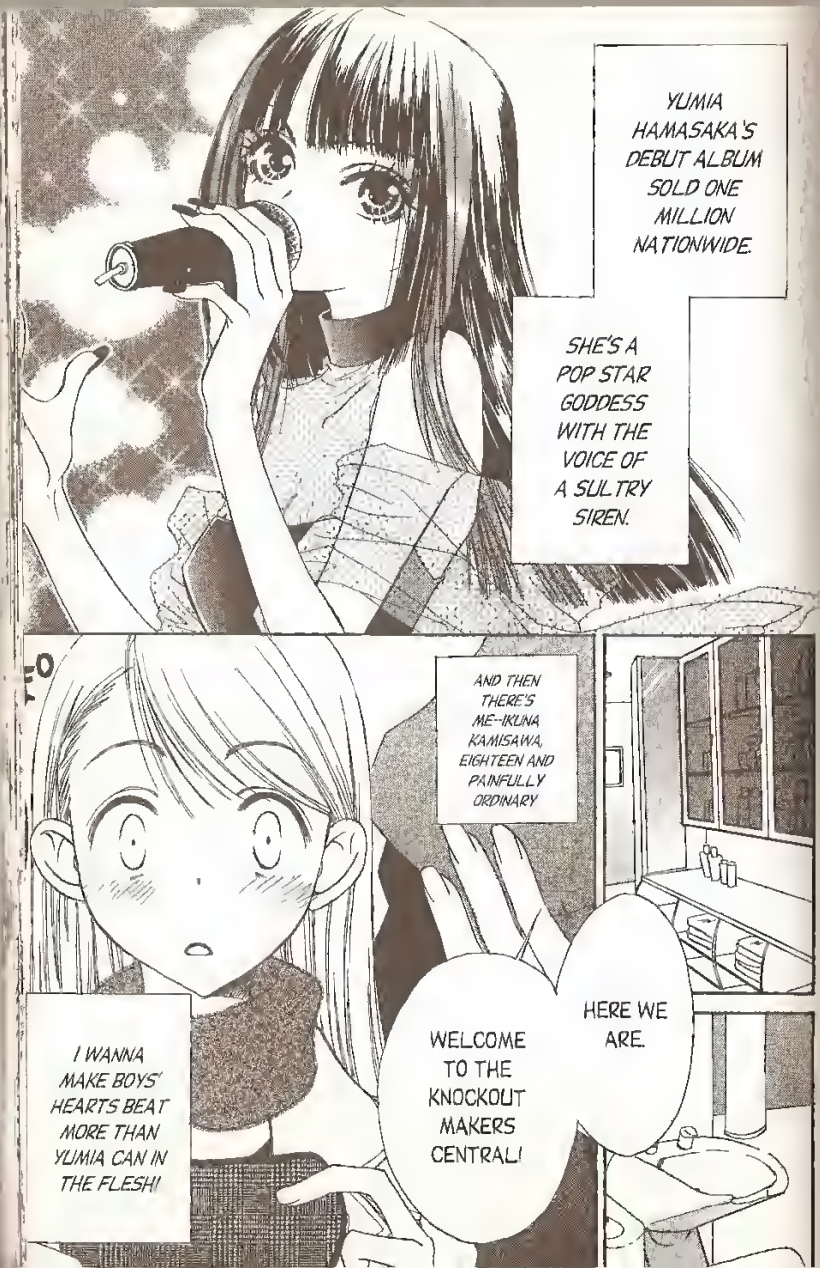
12TH ANNUAL MISS HS CONTEST
WHAT DID I DO?! I BET HE'LL NEVER TRAIN WITH ME AGAIN!
OVER HERE!
NOT THAT GOING NATURAL IS WITHOUT ITS GOOD POINTS.
BUT WE'RE TAKING NO PRISONERS TODAY.
IT'S TIME THE WORLD SAW...
HOW STUNNING YOU REALLY ARE!

I-I...
I LOVE YOU, YAMASHINA.
I-I...
...ALWAYS HAVE...

KNOCK IT OFF, YOU GUYS!
TELL ME ABOUT IT! YOU'RE A TOTAL FOX! ♡
YEAH!
BOY HAVE YOU CHANGED!
YEAH! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD BOOBIES!
?
MORNIN'
H-HEY, YOU!
OOKAAY... THIS IS SOO AWKWARD!


YEAH.
I'M GLAD I CHANGED
NEXT UP-- CONTESTANT NUMBER TWENTY
THANK YOU, TOSHIHIRO-KUN!
KIYO NISHIDAI-SAN!
FINALLY...
THE FESTIVAL ENDED


WHAT? WAIT...
COULD HE BE... JEALOUS?
THANKS, KNOCKOUT MAKERS! YOU'RE THE GREATEST!!
"NISHIDAI'S A RIVAL BEYOND ANY GUY RIGHT NOW."
"I JUST WANT TO FOCUS ON MY TRAINING"
"BESIDES..."
"...I'VE RECENTLY SEEN SOMEONE IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT"
"RIKAKO... I'M SORRY."
"YOU'RE NICE AND ALL... BUT I DON'T FEEL LIKE DATING ANYONE RIGHT NOW."
HEY. DO ME A FAVOR..
...AND DON'T HAVE MATCHES WITH OTHER GUYS. 'KAY?
EVEN IF HE DOESN'T WANT ME, FINALLY GETTING IT OFF MY CHEST...
...WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.

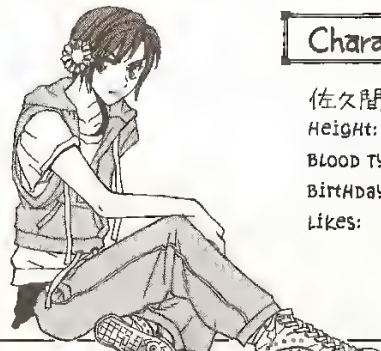

YUMIA HAMASAKA'S DEBUT ALBUM SOLD ONE MILLION NATIONWIDE.
SHE'S A POP STAR GODDESS WITH THE VOICE OF A SULTRY SIREN.
AND THEN THERE'S ME--IKUNA KAMISAWA, EIGHTEEN AND PAINFULLY ORDINARY
I WANNA MAKE BOYS' HEARTS BEAT MORE THAN YUMIA CAN IN THE FLESH!
WELCOME TO THE KNOCKOUT MAKERS CENTRAL!
HERE WE ARE.

GET OFF, YA APE!
WILL IT KILL YOU TO TRY SOME HUMILITY FOR ONCE?!
OOOH! YOU'RE SUCH A COCKY BRAT, TOSHIHIRO!
ANOTHER SATISFIED CUSTOMER?
SO WHAT'S THE VERDICT?
.....
IS THERE ANY OTHER KIND?

→*See you next Knockout!*

CHAPTER 1 / END

IKUNA-CHAN HERE WANTS TO BE YUMIA HAMASAKA.
I-I... I KN-KNOW I'M NOT . PRETTY... B-BUT...
I COULD BARELY SPEAK...
THESE GUYS ARE .SO FRICKIN'... HOT!!!
TOSHI-KUN, AT YOUR SERVICE.
RYOUHEI.
I WALK IN. TO MY RIGHT IS...
TO MY LEFT IS...



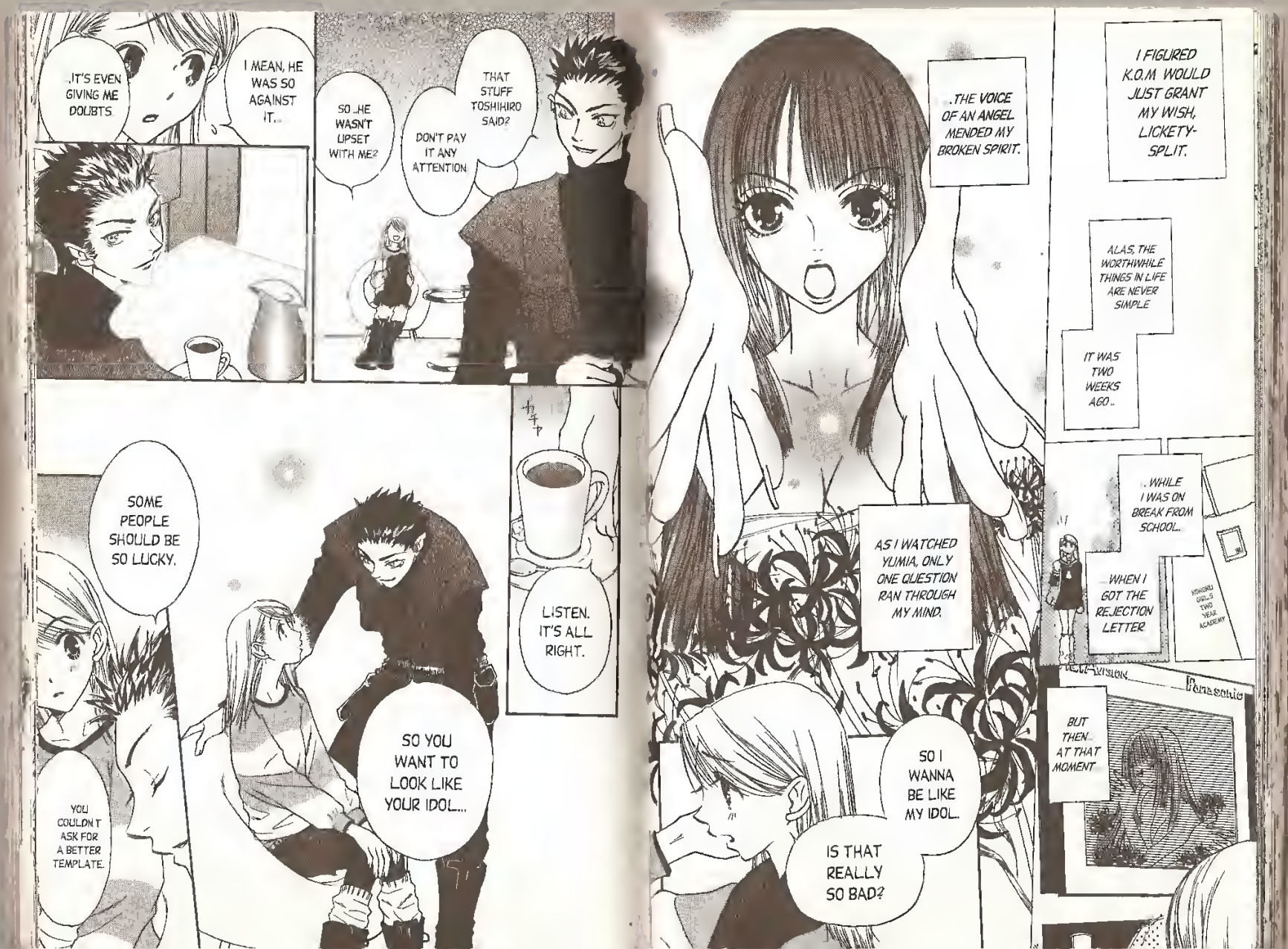
Character File : 01

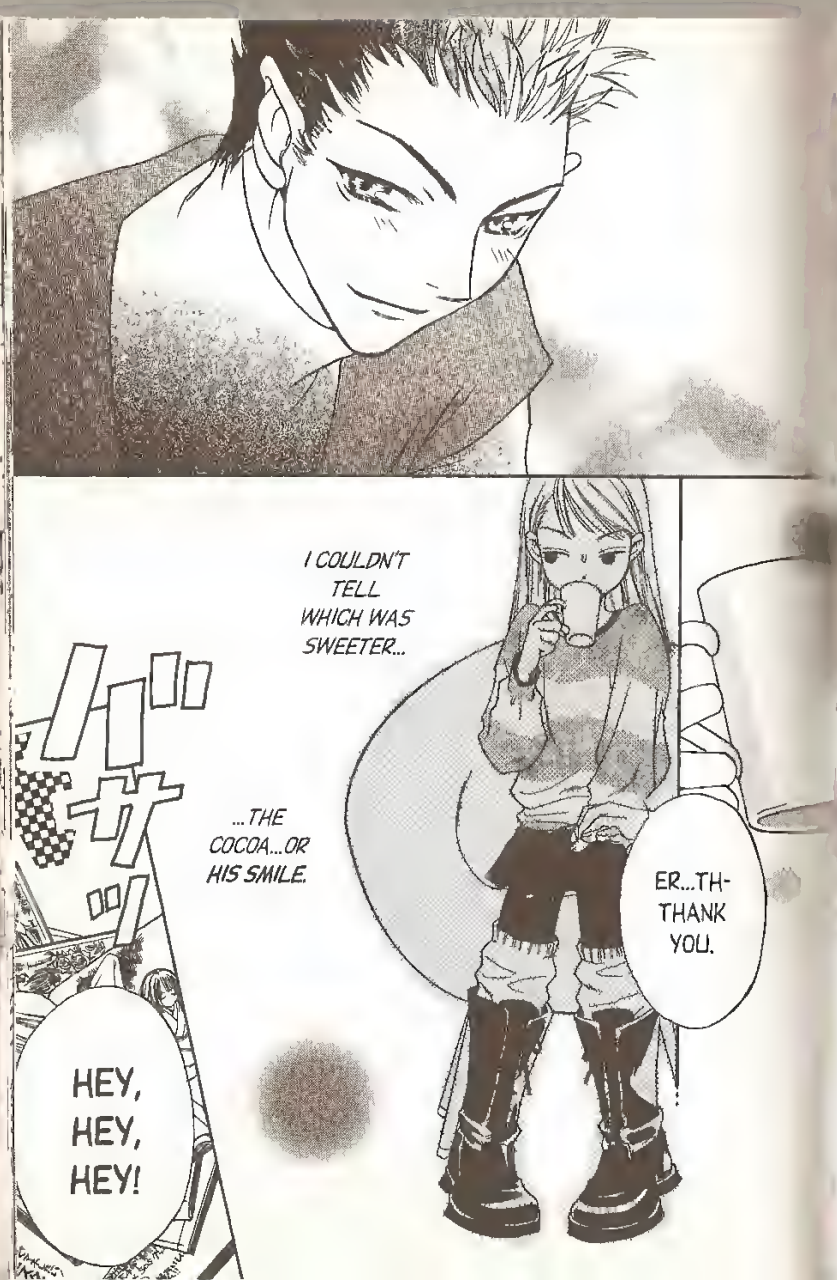
佐久間 寿浩 (Toshihiro Sakuma)
Height: 169cm
Blood type: A
Birthday: March 23
Likes: Japanese tea
Aesthetics

The Knockout Makers

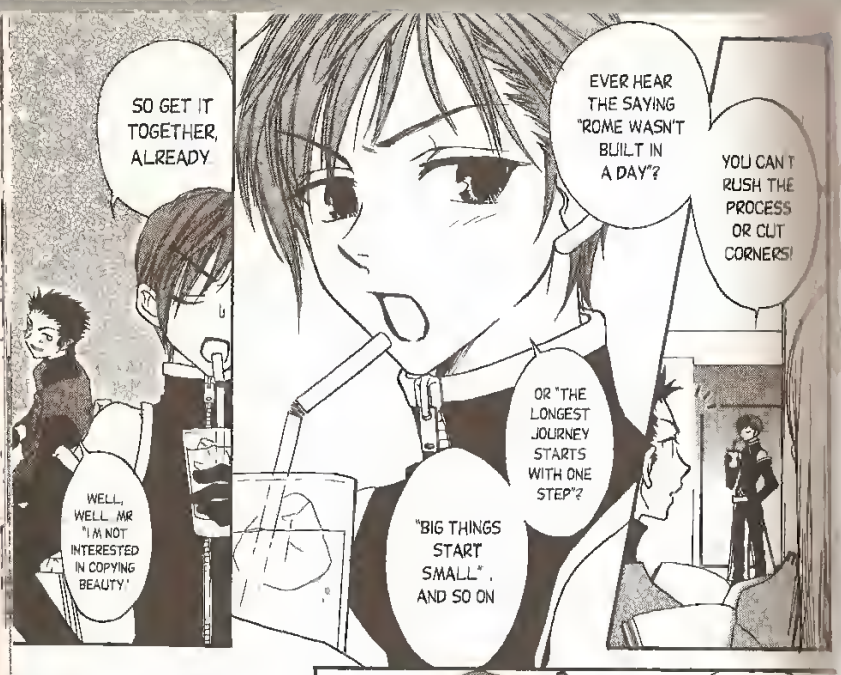
CHAPTER 2

MY POLICY IS TO MAKE EACH AND EVERY CLIENT BEAUTIFUL...
...BUT IN A WAY UNIQUE TO THEM!
Y-YES?
SO, AS YOU SEE...
WHERE WERE WE...AH YES!
YOU'RE PRETTY CUTE
HMM...
R-REALLY?
DUDE YOU'RE ACTING WAAY IMMATURE.
SILENCE! THE GREAT TOSHIHIRO IS SPEAKING!
besides I'm at already!
...A TRUE ARTIST DOES NOT ENABLE THE ACT OF COPYING ANOTHER'S PERSONA!
...EVEN IF YOU GET ON YOUR KNEES AND BEG FOR IT...
ポイ
ASK, AND K.O.M. TAKETH AWAY.
Ha-ha-ha-ha!
SHE'S A RIOT, THIS ONE!
Very Excited
OH WOW. I MUST HAVE DIED AND GONE TO PRETTY BOY HEAVEN...
who knew Heaven was so cool?!
I'LL FILL IN THE PARTS YOUR HANDLER NOBUO, SKIPPED
Y-YES?
UM, RYOUHEI? TAKING A TOILET BREAK ARE WE?
SINCE THERE'S NOTHING TO DO HERE YET, I'M HEADING HOME.
AND IKUNA?
WE MUST TREAT THIS AS IF WE'RE CRAMMING FOR AN EXAM.
IT IS CRUCIAL THAT YOU TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY. BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T...
BASICALLY, IF YOU DON'T PREPARE PROPERLY, YOU'LL FLUNK THE TEST.
...YOU WILL NEVER ACHIEVE THE LEVEL OF BEAUTY YOU SEEK.
EXCUSE ME
RYOUHEI, HOLD UP!
ポイ


I FIGURED K.O.M WOULD JUST GRANT MY WISH, LICKETY-SPLIT.
ALAS, THE WORTHWHILE THINGS IN LIFE ARE NEVER SIMPLE
IT WAS TWO WEEKS AGO..
..WHILE I WAS ON BREAK FROM SCHOOL..
..WHEN I GOT THE REJECTION LETTER
KOHORU GIRL'S TWO YEAR ACADEMY
..THE VOICE OF AN ANGEL MENDED MY BROKEN SPIRIT.
AS I WATCHED YUMIA, ONLY ONE QUESTION RAN THROUGH MY MIND.
BUT THEN.. AT THAT MOMENT
SO I WANNA BE LIKE MY IDOL.
IS THAT REALLY SO BAD?
..IT'S EVEN GIVING ME DOUBTS.
I MEAN, HE WAS SO AGAINST IT..
SO..HE WASN'T UPSET WITH ME?
DON'T PAY IT ANY ATTENTION
THAT STUFF TOSHIHIRO SAID?
LISTEN. IT'S ALL RIGHT.
SOME PEOPLE SHOULD BE SO LUCKY.
YOU COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER TEMPLATE.
SO YOU WANT TO LOOK LIKE YOUR IDOL...


HEY, HEY, HEY!
ER...TH-THANK YOU.
...THE COCOA...OR HIS SMILE.
I COULDN'T TELL WHICH WAS SWEETER...

...INTO YOUR OWN OBJECT OF DESIRE!
TOGETHER, WE'LL TRANSFORM YOU..
...IN YOUR QUEST FOR IDEAL BEAUTY
...I TOTALLY SUPPORT YOU..
OKAY?
SO HAVE FAITH IN THE GREAT NOBUO!
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS..


SO GET IT TOGETHER, ALREADY.
WELL, WELL. MR "I'M NOT INTERESTED IN COPYING BEAUTY.'
EVER HEAR THE SAYING "ROME WASN'T BUILT IN A DAY"?
YOU CAN'T RUSH THE PROCESS OR CUT CORNERS!
OR "THE LONGEST JOURNEY STARTS WITH ONE STEP"?
"BIG THINGS START SMALL", AND SO ON

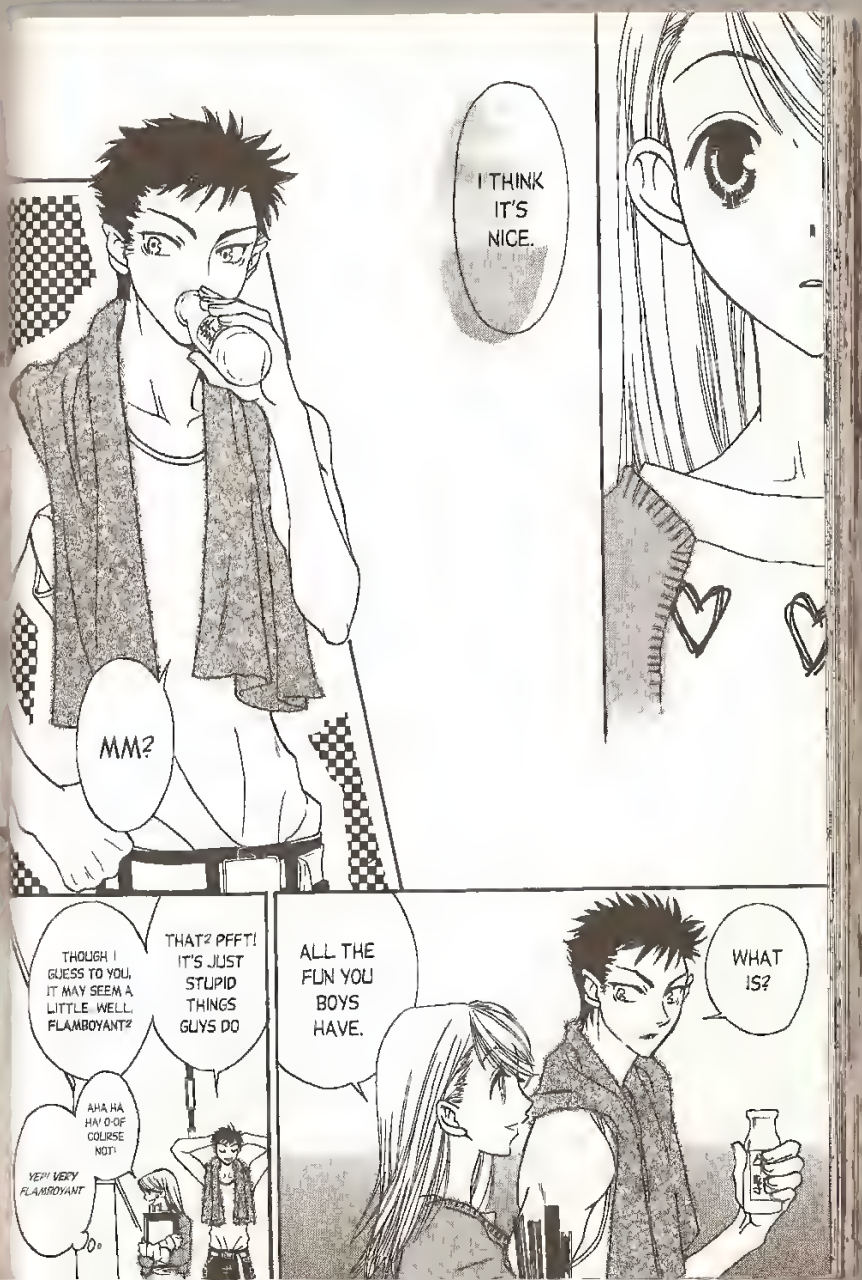
I SAID, NO.
NO.
DON'T SAY THAT!
I SAID NO, YOU WEIRDO !!!
OH, TOSHI-KUN!!
LET'S BE TOGETHER, TOSHI-KUN!
Bull's-eye!
HAD A CHANGE OF HEART, DID WE?♡
WHERE? It's not there, either!
AND QUIT WITH THE TOSHI-KUN JAZZ!
WH-WHAT?! C-COURSE NOT!!
YOU SENTIMENTAL SOFTIE, YOU!♡
OH, TOSHI-KUN! YOU JUST WANTED TO SPEND TIME WITH ME...

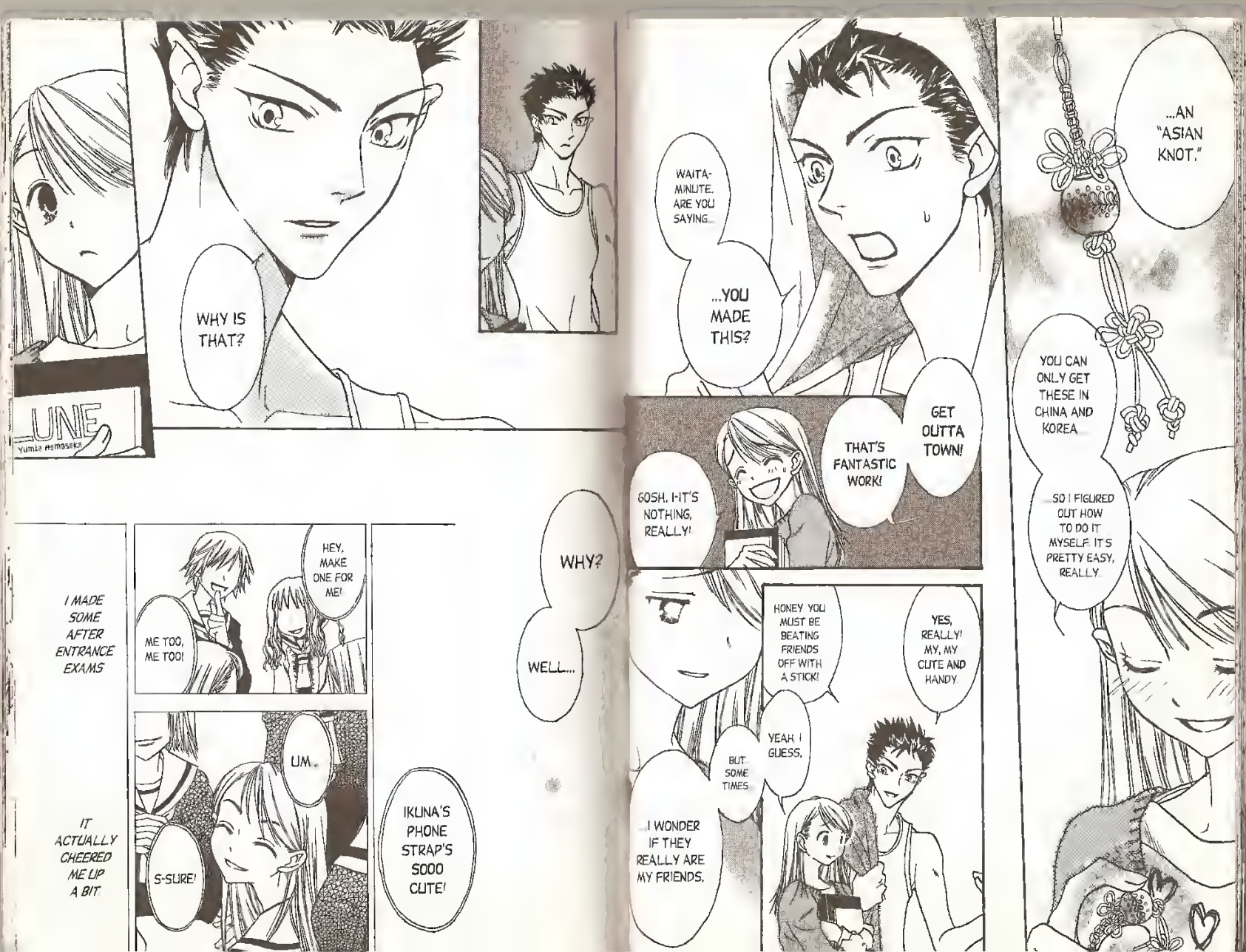
WHOA!
HOW MUCH DID YOU BUY?
HMM, LET'S SEE... THREE PHOTO COLLECTIONS, FIVE PROMO DVD'S, MAGAZINES...
ANYWAY, I THINK THIS'LL YIELD EXCELLENT REFERENCE POINTS ON FORM!
"FORM"?
LOOKY WHAT I HAVE!
MAGAZINES FEATURING OUR GIRL YUMIA HAMASAKA! BACK ISSUES, TOO!
YUMIA HAMASAKA TAKES IT ALL!

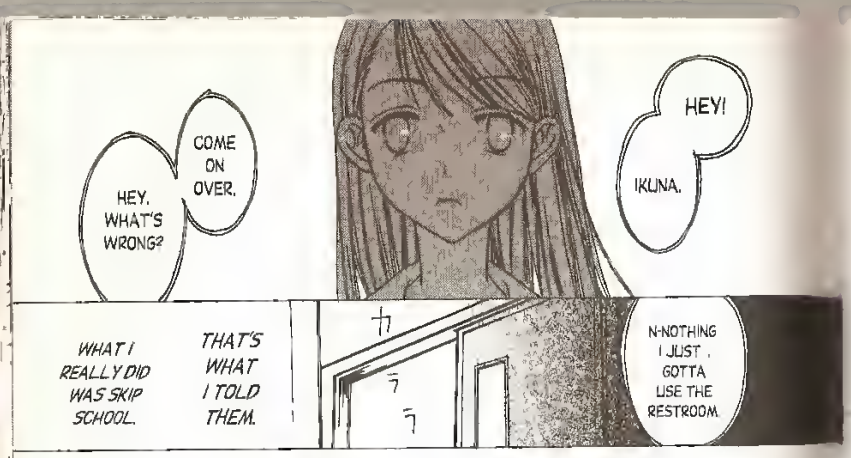
LET'S SEE...
OOH! WE CAN FOLLOW HER DAILY REGIMENT...
...AS LISTED IN THE ARTICLE "GLUED TO YUMIA 24/7"!
IT DOES SEEM A BIT TOO "FULL METAL JACKET"...
YEAH...
GEE... I GUESS THE "FUN-LOVING YUMIA" DOESN'T START UNTIL AFTER BREAKFAST...
MORONS! THE BOTH OF YOU!
WHAAAT?! N-NO WAY!
I'M BAD AT RUNNING AND WAKING!
Hmm...
IT SAYS HERE "SHE WAKES UP AT FIVE A.M., JOGS THREE MILES, AND THEN GOES RIGHT INTO YOGA. THEN--"

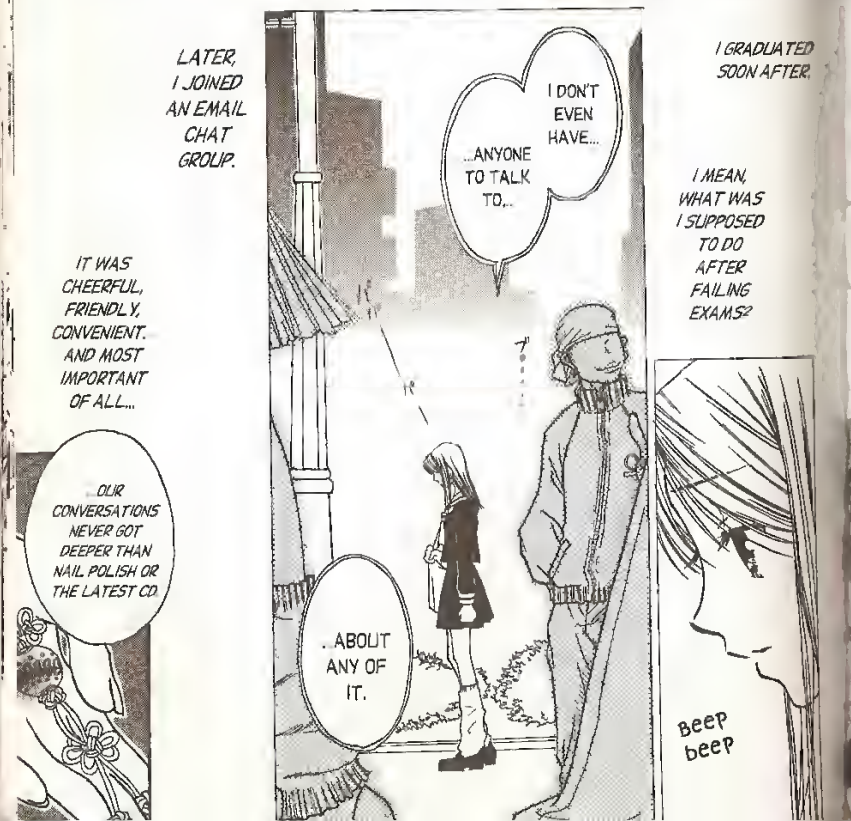
I SHALL NOT BE IGNORED, DAMMIT!
KNOCK IT OFF!!
SPECIAL BLUE DYE DO NOT DRINK
I'm game.
Wanna play?
CONSIDER IT PAYBACK FOR VIOLATING THE SANCTITY OF MY TABLE WITH YOUR GREASY CHIPS.
DECLARING WAR ON THE JUNK FOOD KING, EH?!
..ARGUE..?
Give me shot but it's reduce menu
over my suit wearing bear honey!
OH, STUFF it, already!
You will be cleaning this suit, TOGETHER!
ER... YOU.. SHOULD NT...
YOU IDIOTS ARE TOO NOISY.
WHAT THE HELL?!
CAAAH
PUH-LEASE!!
teaser
ENOUGH, ALREADY
HEY! WHO--?
I THOUGHT I GOT RID OF THOSE DISGUSTING SNACKS OF YOURS
DID YOU, NOW..?!
YOU MEAN THERE'S MORE?
AND FROM MY EMERGENCY STASH, NO LESS!
DUDE! THESE ARE MY LIMITED QUANTITY SUPER-GOOD POTATO CHIPS!
Potato Chips

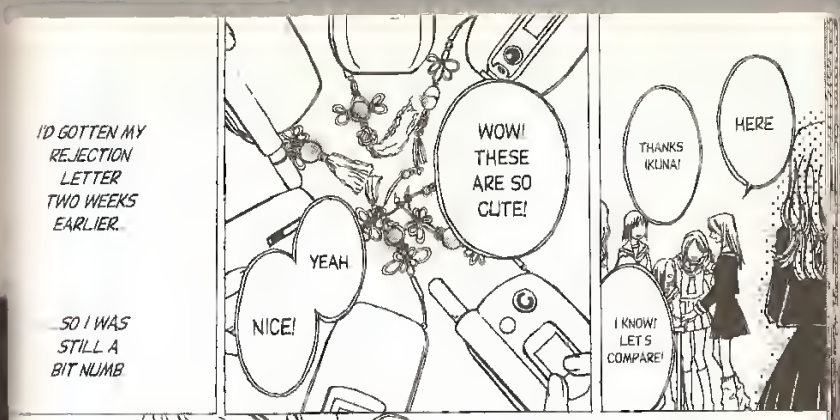
I NOTICED YOU HAVEN'T CONTACTED ANYONE SINCE YOU GOT HERE.
HAVE YOU BEEN IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FOLKS?
HEY, IKUNA-CHAN?
HAW! YOU'RE SO EASY, IKUNA-CHAN! WHAT A RIOT YOU ARE!
SAY...
See?
LIKE HELL I DID!
...YOUR CELL IN THE TOILET!
SURE, WE'RE UNDERGROUND BUT CELL PHONES STILL GET RECEPTION HERE.
YOU'RE FREE TO TALK TO WHOMEVER-- AS LONG AS YOU DON'T MENTION K.O.M.
BY THE WAY, [illegible] clichés show on a five seat minimum suites--male included.
OH, I KNOW! I BET YOU DROPPED..
HAH!
BFFFT!
OH...!
THAT'S CALLED...
WHERE'D YOU BUY IT?
NICE STRAP!
HUH?
LUNE

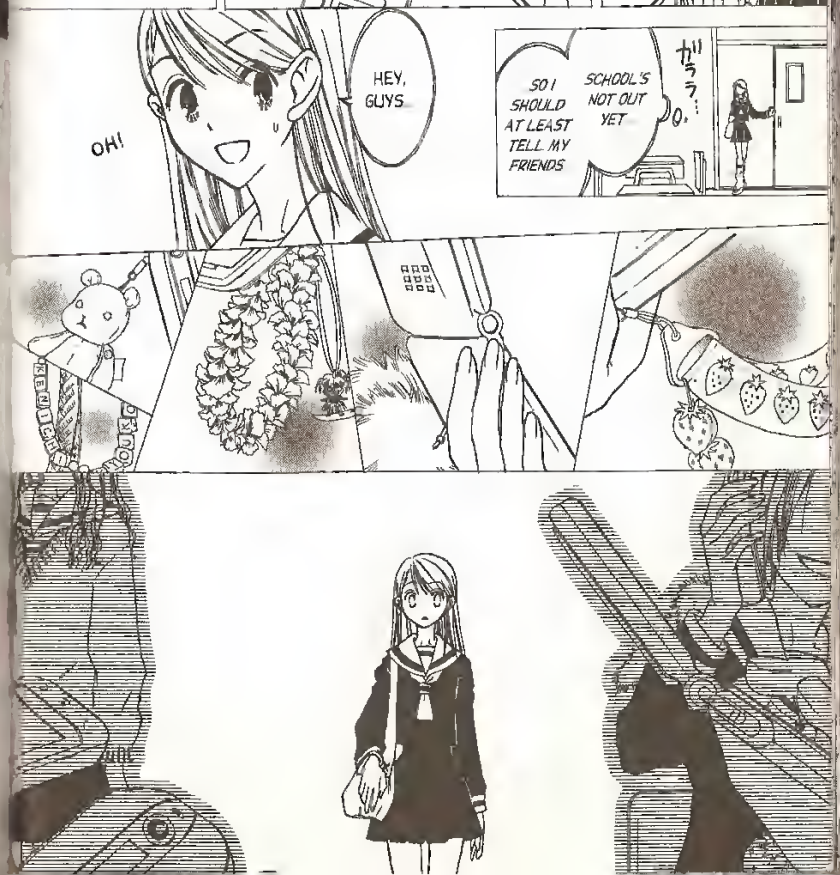

I THINK IT'S NICE.
MM?
THOUGH I GUESS TO YOU, IT MAY SEEM A LITTLE... WELL... FLAMBOYANT?
THAT? PFFT! IT'S JUST STUPID THINGS GUYS DO
AHA HA HA! OF COURSE NOT!
YEP! VERY FLAMBOYANT
ALL THE FUN YOU BOYS HAVE.
WHAT IS?


...AN "ASIAN KNOT."
YOU CAN ONLY GET THESE IN CHINA AND KOREA.
...SO I FIGURED OUT HOW TO DO IT MYSELF. IT'S PRETTY EASY, REALLY.
WAITA-MINUTE. ARE YOU SAYING...
...YOU MADE THIS?
GOSH. I-IT'S NOTHING, REALLY!
THAT'S FANTASTIC WORK!
GET OUTTA TOWN!
HONEY YOU MUST BE BEATING FRIENDS OFF WITH A STICK!
YES, REALLY! MY, MY CUTE AND HANDY.
YEAH. I GUESS.
BUT SOME TIMES...
...I WONDER IF THEY REALLY ARE MY FRIENDS.
WHY?
WELL...
WHY IS THAT?
UNE
Yumia Hemasaka
I MADE SOME AFTER ENTRANCE EXAMS
HEY, MAKE ONE FOR ME!
ME TOO, ME TOO!
UM..
S-SURE!
IT ACTUALLY CHEERED ME UP A BIT.
IKUNA'S PHONE STRAP'S SOOO CUTE!


HEY!
IKUNA.
COME ON OVER.
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG?
N-NOTHING I JUST . GOTTA USE THE RESTROOM.
THAT'S WHAT I TOLD THEM.
WHAT I REALLY DID WAS SKIP SCHOOL.


LATER, I JOINED AN EMAIL CHAT GROUP.
I DON'T EVEN HAVE...
...ANYONE TO TALK TO...
...ABOUT ANY OF IT.
IT WAS CHEERFUL, FRIENDLY, CONVENIENT. AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL...
...OUR CONVERSATIONS NEVER GOT DEEPER THAN NAIL POLISH OR THE LATEST CD.
I GRADUATED SOON AFTER.
I MEAN, WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO AFTER FAILING EXAMS?
Beep beep


I'D GOTTEN MY REJECTION LETTER TWO WEEKS EARLIER.
...SO I WAS STILL A BIT NUMB
WOW! THESE ARE SO CUTE!
YEAH
NICE!
HERE
THANKS IKUNA!
I KNOW! LET'S COMPARE!


OH!
HEY, GUYS...
SO I SHOULD AT LEAST TELL MY FRIENDS
SCHOOL'S NOT OUT YET...
ガラ...

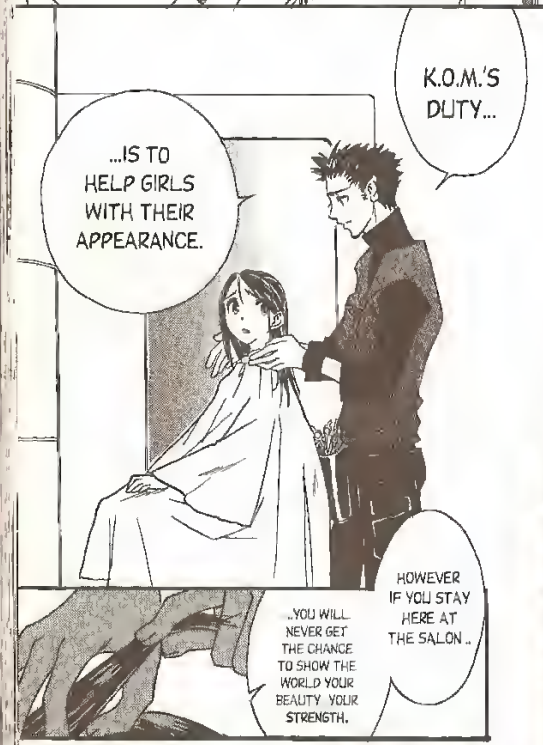
W-WELL, THAT'S MY CUE!
GOODNIGHT.
WHAT THE...?
I, NOBUO SHIRAKAWA, AGE 19...
HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE THE FRIENDSHIP OF IKUNA KAMISAWA-CHAN.
LISTEN TO ME, CHATTING YOUR EAR OFF!
I BET HEARING ME WHINE MUST CURL YOUR TOES, HUH?
IT MUST REALLY SUCK TO HAVE TO BE AROUND SOMEONE SO UN-COOL
I DUNNO.
I GUESS I'M READY TO MAKE SOME REAL FRIENDS NOW.
THAT'S WHY...
...I THINK WHAT YOU GUYS HAVE IS REALLY NICE.
O-OH!
WELCOME BACK, KAMISAWA-SAMA.
AWKWARD SILENCE...
.....

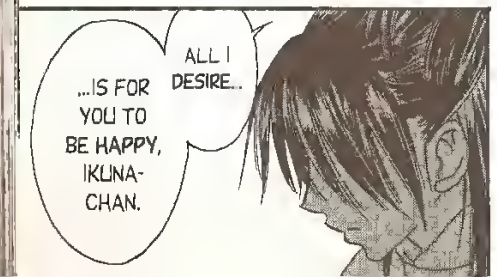
...YOU MUST TEACH ME HOW TO MAKE AN ASIAN KNOT.
TOMORROW MORNING...
S-SURE
SHE'S LIKE THAT GIRL FROM LAST YEAR
NOBUO
EAVES-DROPPING MUCH?
IS THAT WHY YOU'VE BEEN SPYING?
LOOK... JUST RELAX. IT'S OKAY, REALLY.
JUST REMEMBER NOT TO GIVE THE CLIENT THE WRONG IDEA
YOU'RE SUCH A WORRYWART, TOSHI-KUN
IKUNA-CHAN'S A STRONG GIRL. SHE CAN GET THROUGH THIS.
WHAT'LL I DO?
I'M THE FIRST MAN...
...YOU'VE EVER EXPRESSED YOUR TRUE FEELINGS TO, AREN'T I?
I'M SO VERY HAPPY...AND HONORED THAT YOU WOULD CONFIDE IN ME IN SUCH A WAY.
OH...
R-REALLY?
YES.
REALLY.
YUMIAR.

I WISH...
RAPESEED KIWI GREEN TEA ..YOGURT JUICE.
WITH THE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS REMOVED, THE TEA'S ANTI-OXIDIZATION HALTS MELANIN PRODUCTION.
IN SHORT, IT'LL KEEP YOUR SKIN BLEMISH-FREE AND HELP TO RETAIN ITS COLOR
...THIS JOB WOULD NEVER END.
THERE'S NO DENY-ING IT.
I'M SO VERY HAPPY, AND HONORED THAT YOU WOULD CONFIDE IN ME IN SUCH A WAY."
I'M FALLING FOR NOBUO MORE AND MORE.
REALLY..? WHOOPS
YOU DOLTS! YOU PAINTED YOUR FACES WITH THAT DYE?! IT WON'T COME OFF FOR WEEKS!!
Oh, give it up!
Maybe we should use some on you, then
I WISH THIS COULD GO ON FOREVER
BEEN THERE-- DONE THAT!!
I Printed it out with RYOUHEI'S computer.
HERE
THIS IS FOR THE SKIN CARE EXTRACTS GUY
..BUT WE'LL USE IT TO DYE HER HAIR
..IS HENNA LEAF EXTRACT. INDIAN WOMEN TYPICALLY USE IT TO DRAW GOOD LUCK SYMBOLS.
AND THIS..

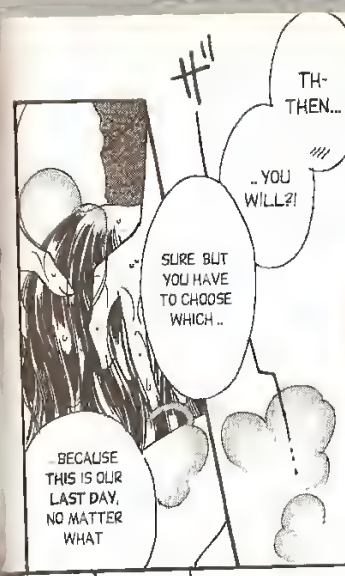
.....
SO, WHICH WILL IT BE?
NOBUO, I WANT TO BE WITH YOU FOREVER.
...WHEN YOUR JOB ENDS...
...W-WE'LL HAVE NO REASON TO BE TOGETHER.
IF ONLY I COULD BOTTLE THIS MOMENT IN TIME.
WHAT'D YOU SAY? YOU DON'T WANNA BE YUMIA HAMASAKA?
ズールズール
YESTERDAY IT WAS YUMIA OR BUST! NOW YOU WA--MPH! MMPH!!
N-NOPE
NO?! WHADAYA MEAN, NO?!
I WAS THINKING WHAT IF I LOOKED LIKE KOJI SHIBAGAKI? YOU KNOW, THE ACTRESS?
OR...MAYBE THE SINGER, MIKA NAGASHIMA?
POINT IS, WE SHOULD PROBABLY JUST START COMPLETELY OVER...
.....
IT'S JUST...

WHETHER IT'S A SINGER OR FILM STAR...THEY NOT ONLY FOLLOW TRENDS THEY CREATE THEM.
YOU WANT TO BE THEM ALL.
...YUMIA HAMASAKA...KOU SHIBAGAKI...MIKA NAGASHIMA...


K.O.M.'S DUTY...
...IS TO HELP GIRLS WITH THEIR APPEARANCE.
HOWEVER IF YOU STAY HERE AT THE SALON..
...YOU WILL NEVER GET THE CHANCE TO SHOW THE WORLD YOUR BEAUTY...YOUR STRENGTH.


...IS FOR YOU TO BE HAPPY, IKUNA-CHAN.
ALL I DESIRE..

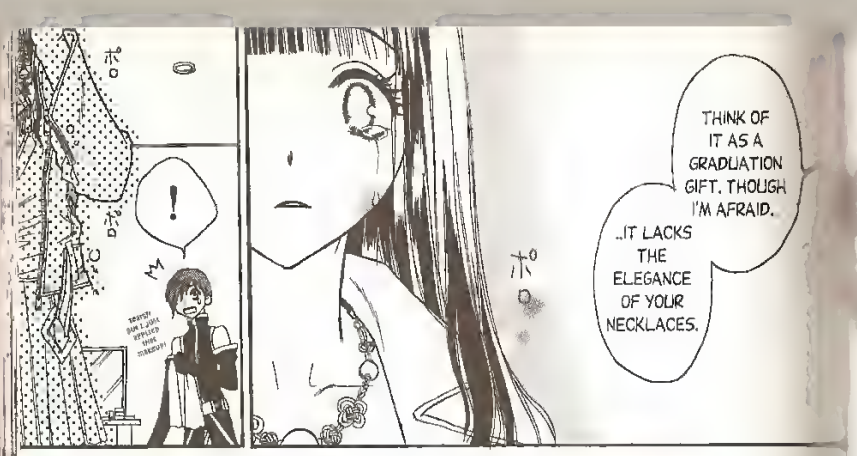
YOU WANT YUMIA'S STRENGTH, HER POWER, HER ABILITY TO CREATE HER OWN WORLD...
..BUT WHAT YOU DON'T REALIZE IS THAT THE STRENGTH TO CREATE YOUR OWN WORLD IS ALREADY INSIDE YOU!


TH-THEN...
..YOU WILL?!
SURE BUT YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE WHICH..
..BECAUSE THIS IS OUR LAST DAY, NO MATTER WHAT

BOTH GOOD CHOICES, I MUST ADMIT.
KOU SHIBAGAKI OR MIKA NAGASHIMA, EH?
DOWN YOU GO

LISTEN CAREFULLY, IKUNA-CHAN...
WHY? WHY CAN'T YOU..?
UH-HUH
AS FOR THE HAIR COLOR CHANGE I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN A MORE PERFECT SHADE OF BROWN!
WE USED ONLY THE FINEST INGREDIENTS, SO THERE'S NO DAMAGE. NICE!

WHITE SKIN, BLACK BANGS, ROUND CUT... THAT'S WHAT WE HAVE HERE.
THE BODY OF YOUR HAIR ISN'T VERY THICK. SO WE'LL PERM LOOSE ENDS.
BESIDES, WE WANT A DECISIVE LOOK.
QUIT HORSIN AROUND!
WHEN I'M DONE YOUR HAIR'LL BE NICER THAN A DOLL'S!
Not one for my first time at this!
IT'S NICE.
VERY BECOMING.
FINGERTIP-GRADUATED.
RED PEARL AND BLACK EYE SHADOW...
WITH HEAVY PINK AND BEIGE LIP GLOSS ON TOP.
SIMILAR TO WHAT I DID ON THE EYES.
I'LL PLACE A BIT OF CONCEALER ON THE LIPS..
HOW'S THIS, NOBUO?!
SHALL I BEGIN CUTTING?
I CAN'T SMILE...
...AT A TIME LIKE THIS.
EVEN IF THAT M-MEANS...
...B-BEING WITH YOU, NOBUO-KUN?


!
THINK OF IT AS A GRADUATION GIFT. THOUGH I'M AFRAID.
..IT LACKS THE ELEGANCE OF YOUR NECKLACES.

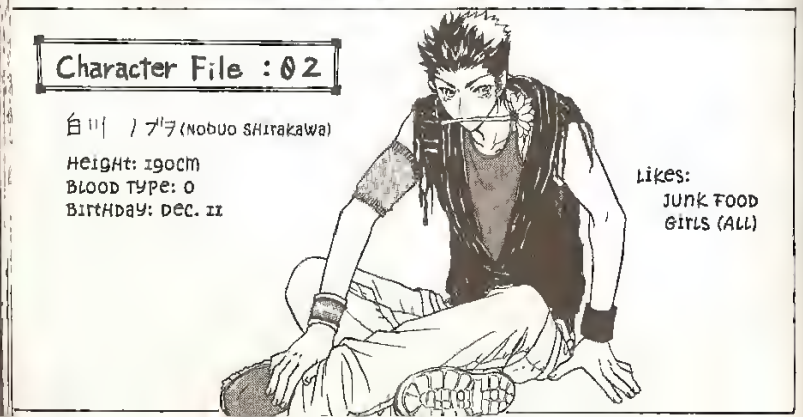
.....!

AND NOW FOR THE FINAL BRUSH STROKE ON THIS MASTERPIECE.
THIS IS AN ASIAN KNOT NECKLACE I MADE. WITH THIS...
...CONSIDER THE OLD YOU KNOCKED OUT COLD!

THE WIND FEELS SO GOOD NOW.
THANK YOU, NOBUO. THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME DISCOVER MY BEAUTY.
FROM NOW ON, I'LL WALK MY OWN PATH. AND I'LL DEFINITELY FIND...
...A BETTER BOYFRIEND THAN NOBUO...
...TO CALL ME HIS NUMBER ONE!
MAYBE I CAN MASTER THIS...
try for a crafts design school?
DIVINE PUNISHMENT IN ACTION.
INDEED
I'm Her Handler, aren't I?!
OWIE!! THAT HURT!! HOW DARE SHE STRIKE MY CHISELED FACE!
'KAY?
GOODBYE.
YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MY NUMBER ONE CUTIE-PIE.
NOW...
...DO NOT COME HERE AGAIN.
NYAH!
I'M NOT YOUR "NUMBER ONE" ANYTHING, YOU--YOU JERK!!
I ALWAYS..
..HATED THAT SMILE!
Thwack

Sigh...
TALK ABOUT BOOORING!
SHEESH
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS FAT-FILLED MENU!
RIGHT, KENJI?
menu
PORK CUTLET SPECIAL--970 CALORIES
CREAM PASTA--890 CALORIES
PIZZA WITH HAM--400 CALORIES
I'M LOSIN' MY FREAKIN' APPETITE OVER HERE!!
CALORIE THIS, CALORIE THAT!
HUH?
W-WAIT!
WE'RE THROUGH, MISAKI!
NOOOO!!
FOR NOW ON YOU CAN COUNT CALORIES ON YOUR OWN!
I AM DESTINED TO BE LOVED BY THEM ALL!
WHAT CAN I SAY? I AM THE GENIUS WHO MAKES ALL GIRLS BLOSSOM!
SO SAD
SO DELUD-ED
Rose or cherry, I love all my flowers!
SUREL--YOUR AMAZING!
IT'S A GOOD THING YUMIA-CHAN CAME TO US BEFORE HER DEBUT
Where am I?
Not of course!
IS THAT WHY YOU FLED OVERSEAS WHEN SHE FELL FOR YOU?
YEP THANKS TO NOBUO THE GREAT, SHE IS THE WORLD'S SWEETHEART!
SO...
YUMIA HAMASAKA.
SURE HAS CAUSED QUITE A STIR
YEP. IT'S BEEN SOME YEAR FOR HER. HUH?
ALL RIGHT!
LET'S GO RESCUE OUR NEXT FLOWER FROM THE THICKET!
See you next knockout
CHAPTER 2 / END

DEAR GOD... BUDDHA... ANYBODY!
PLEASE LET ME SLIM DOWN THIS TIME!!
パンパン
カリカリ
I WANT TO BE A SLIM AND PRETTY WOMAN...
...THAT'LL HAVE KENJI WISHING HE HAD ME BACK!
THAT'S WHY-
IF THE SHRINE DOESN'T WORK...
...YOUR LAST HOPE IS TO BECOME A K.O.M CLIENT, YES?
HUH?!
WH-WHO SAID THAT?!
VERY WELL.

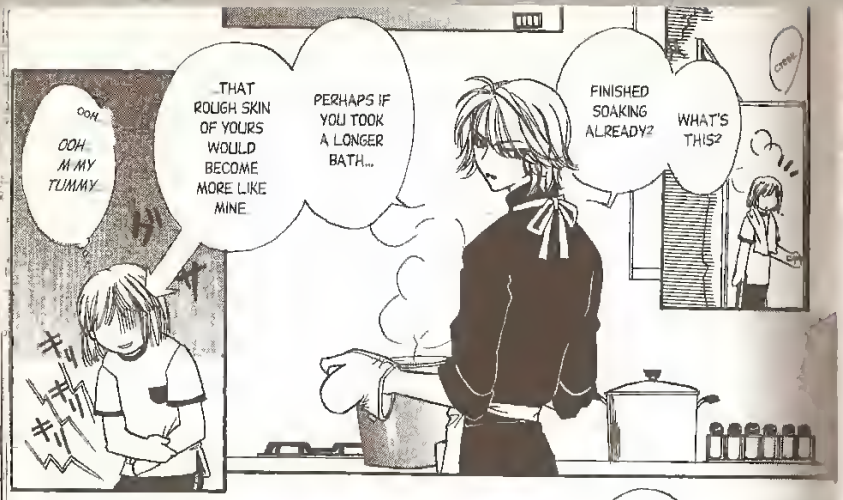

Character File : 02
白川 ノブヲ (Nobuo Shirakawa)
Height: 190cm
Blood type: O
Birthday: Dec. 11
Likes:
Junk food
Girls (all)

The Knockout Makers
CHAPTER 3

MY NAME IS MISAKI WADA
THERE I STOOD, AN EIGHTEEN-YEAR OLD GIRL STARING UP AT HIM LIKE A LOST PUPPY.
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE KIND ANGEL THAT DESCENDED TO GUIDE ME, I WAS SPEECHLESS.
THAT IS, UNTIL THAT DAY...
UM...
(Warning!) THIS is a dramatization of Misaki's mental image ONLY

LOOKING BACK, I REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN TOO SURPRISED.
I FULLY ACCEPT...
...YOUR REQUEST FOR BEAUTY
...WHEN THE SHRINE YIELDED A GUARDIAN ANGEL.
MY NAME IS RYOUHEI MATSUDA.
I WILL BE YOUR KNOCKOUT MAKERS HANDLER.

YES.
DON'T 'YES' ME HERE!
BUT...I C-CAN'T!
N-NOT JUST THE TWO OF US!
BEHIND CLOSED DOORS...
WITH A YOUNG MAIDEN...
...HAND IN HAND.
...WHILE YOU TRAIN HER AS YOU SEE FIT?
I WANNA PLAY BABE TRAINER, TOO!!
BAM!
ENOUGH WITH THE INAPPROPRIATE OUTBURSTS, ALREADY!
BAKA NOBUO!
NO FAIR, RYOUHEI!!
I ASSURE YOU, I HAVE NO NEFARIOUS PLANS FOR WADA-CHAN
BESIDES...
UNLIKE COMRADE NOBUO, I HAVE A LITTLE SOMETHING CALLED SCRUPLES
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
NO WAY!! ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
VERY WHY? AREN'T YOU GLAD?
SHOULDN'T WE BE TAKING A BREAK NOW?
just a quickie
LESS TALK, MORE SWEAT.
NOW YOU OWE ONE EXTRA HOUR.
IF NOT, YOU SHOULD BE
THIS IS THE K.O.M. GYM--A.K.A. MY TORTURE CHAMBER.
GRR!
THAT HOUR WILL BRING YOU THAT MUCH CLOSER TO GETTING REVENGE ON YOUR EX
YOU HEARD RIGHT. MY 'GENTLE ANGEL' WAS ACTUALLY A HOMICIDAL COACH.
YOU WANT ME TO STAY HERE WITH RYOUHEI-SAN?!
MY SWEAT-DRENCHED NIGHTMARE BEGAN A COUPLE OF DAYS AFTER I ARRIVED...


OOH...
OOH... M-MY TUMMY...
キュキュキュ
...THAT ROUGH SKIN OF YOURS WOULD BECOME MORE LIKE MINE...
PERHAPS IF YOU TOOK A LONGER BATH...
FINISHED SOAKING ALREADY?
WHAT'S THIS?
CREAK

YOU MAY CONSUME AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE.
O O O H !! ♡
THIS WILL NOT ONLY FORTIFY YOUR LEVELS OF IRON...
AS A SIDE DISH WE HAVE LIVER AND HIJIKI SALAD
...BUT WILL ALSO PREVENT POSSIBLE ANEMIA TRIGGERED BY DIETING
IT'S LOW IN GREASE, WHILE RICH WITH ANTI-OBESITY VITAMIN B-1.
BEHOLD--BOILED PORK IN YAMNIM SAUCE
IT INCREASES METABOLISM, SO YOU'LL BURN MORE FAT.
THE YAMNIM SAUCE CONTAINS GARLIC, GINGER, RED PEPPER AND SESAME OIL.
BUT THEN

...I AM ONLY INTERESTED IN WOMEN...
Hmph!
...THAT I DESIRE TO HOLD CLOSE.
sniffle

SINCE THEN...
...HE'S WALKED ALL OVER ME
NOW MY BODY AND MY MIND HURT
NEVER BEEN SO...
.....
...TIRED
HEH HEH

HE'S LIKE, TOTALLY FREAKING ME OUT!!
...USED YOUR CHOPSTICKS SINCE ARRIVING.
YOU'VE BARELY...
HUH?
WHY DO YOU ASK?
R-REALLY?
I-I DIDN'T N-NOTICE!
PERHAPS YOU...
...DO NOT LIKE MY COOKING.
I-I...ER...
Pleeee

Blam
MAYBE SHE'S IN THE KITCHEN OH! OR AT THE CORNER STORE...
GORGING HERSELF ON SNACKS!
KITCHEN?
YEAH.
UMM...IT SMELLS SO GOOD!
I NEVER KNEW YOU FELT THAT WAY!
OH MY! MY HEART'S BEATING SO VERY FAST .!
EH?
WHAT THE--?!
...MISAKI-CHAN?
ER...
I TELL YA--THERE IS NOT A MORE BEAUTIFUL SIGHT...
NOBUO!!
...THAN A BAG FILLED WITH MY FAVORITE SAUCE-FLAVORED POTATO CHIPS!

I SHOULD'VE JUST EATEN THAT MEAL...
Grumble growl grumble growl grumble
UGH! I WANTED TO RUN OUT SO BAD .!
"OH, A SIP OF MINERAL WATER'S ENOUGH FOR ME TEE HEE!" SUUURE.
AWW..I JUST REMEMBERED
MY FAVORITE POTATO CHIPS GO ON SALE TODAY!
UNNH..
I CAN ALMOST TASTE THEIR SALTY GOODNESS!
Growl
Day 1 Dizzy
Day 2 painful
..IN THREE WHOLE DAYS !
I HAVEN'T HAD A DECENT MEAL
SIGH...
YOU MEAN MISAKI WADA?
WASN'T SHE WITH YOU, RYOUHEI?
DO YOU KNOW WHERE WADA-SAN IS?
TOSHIHIRO-KUN...
茶

RYOUHEI-SAN'S TRAINING PROGRAM IS PERFECT FOR ME
IT MEANS HE'S REVOKED MY PRIVILEGES
THE HECK?
EXCOMMUNI--WHAT NOW?
AHA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA !!
Pfft!
YOU'RE LAUGHING?!
THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO LEAVE RIGHT NOW AS PUNISHMENT!
HE NEVER SAYS ANYTHING THAT HE DOESN'T BELIEVE WITH ALL HIS HEART!
. BUT NOW HE HAS COMPLETELY REJECTED ME!
I have no time for disobedient clients.

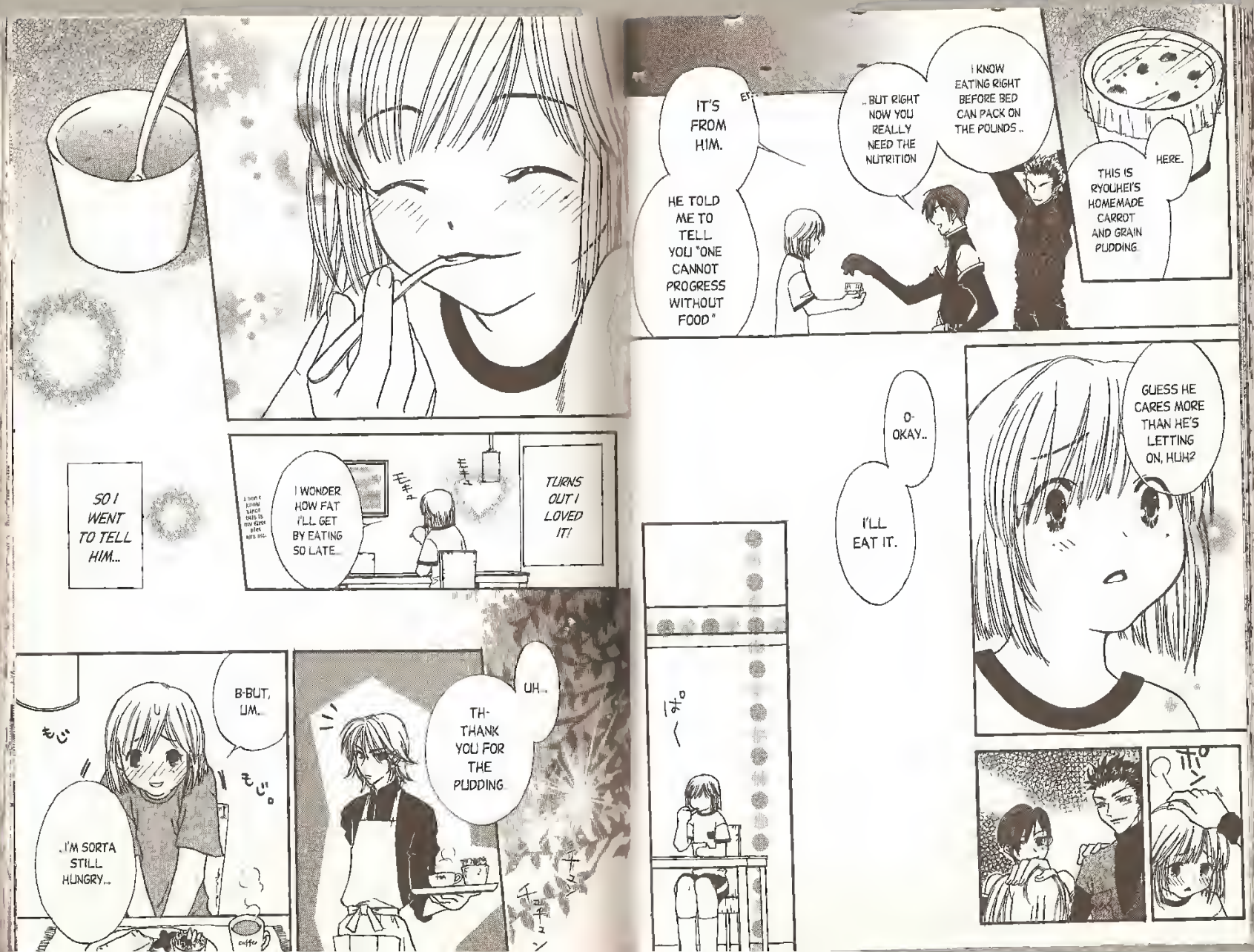
You're not one to talk.
SERIOUSLY YOU'RE WAAY OFF ABOUT HIM!
ANYWAY...
THIS WHOLE "RYOUHEI'S A PERFECT LITTLE MAN OF HIS WORD" THING'S JUST WELL, HILARIOUS!
S-SORRY! HEE!
DIDN'T YOUR MOM TELL YOU IT'S RUDE TO LAUGH AT PATHETIC PEOPLE?

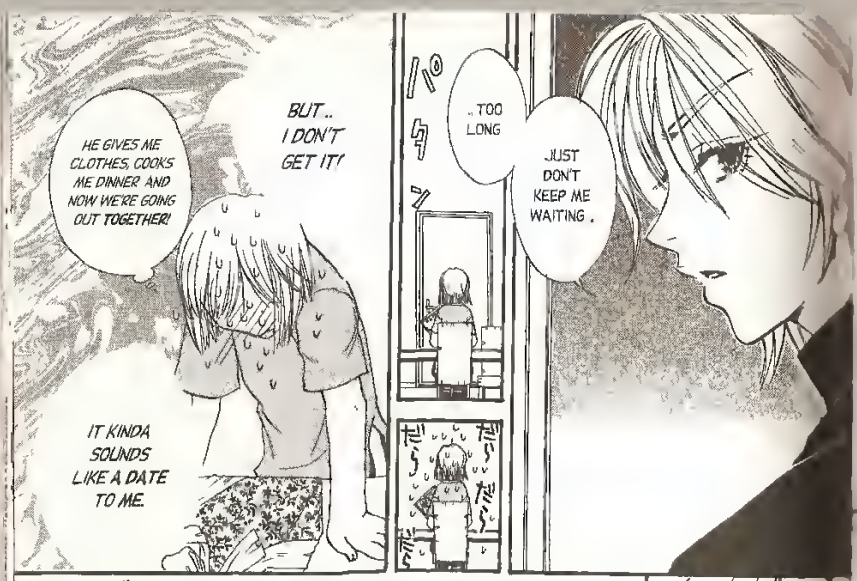
THAT'S RIGHT. TOSHIHIRO SHOULD BE THE SORRY ONE FOR ABUSING MY FACE!
AW, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
Ha ha ha ha!
I-I'M...
...REALLY, REALLY S-SORRY!
YOU CAN HANDLE THE REST.
Where's he going?!
RYOUHEI?

EXCOM-MUNICA-TION.
Hmm? He says?

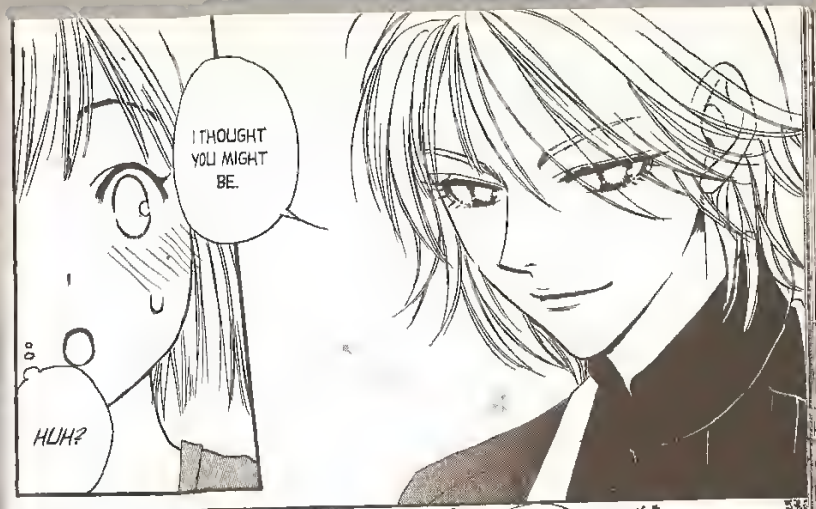
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
MM...?

WE ARE NOW EXPERIENCING TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES PLEASE STAND BY


HERE.
THIS IS RYOUHEI'S HOMEMADE CARROT AND GRAIN PUDDING
I KNOW EATING RIGHT BEFORE BED CAN PACK ON THE POUNDS..
..BUT RIGHT NOW YOU REALLY NEED THE NUTRITION
EE!
IT'S FROM HIM.
HE TOLD ME TO TELL YOU "ONE CANNOT PROGRESS WITHOUT FOOD."
O-OKAY..
I'LL EAT IT.
GUESS HE CARES MORE THAN HE'S LETTING ON, HUH?
SO I WENT TO TELL HIM...
I WONDER HOW FAT I'LL GET BY EATING SO LATE...
TURNS OUT I LOVED IT!
UH..
TH-THANK YOU FOR THE PUDDING.
B-BUT, UM..
..I'M SORTA STILL HUNGRY...
coffee

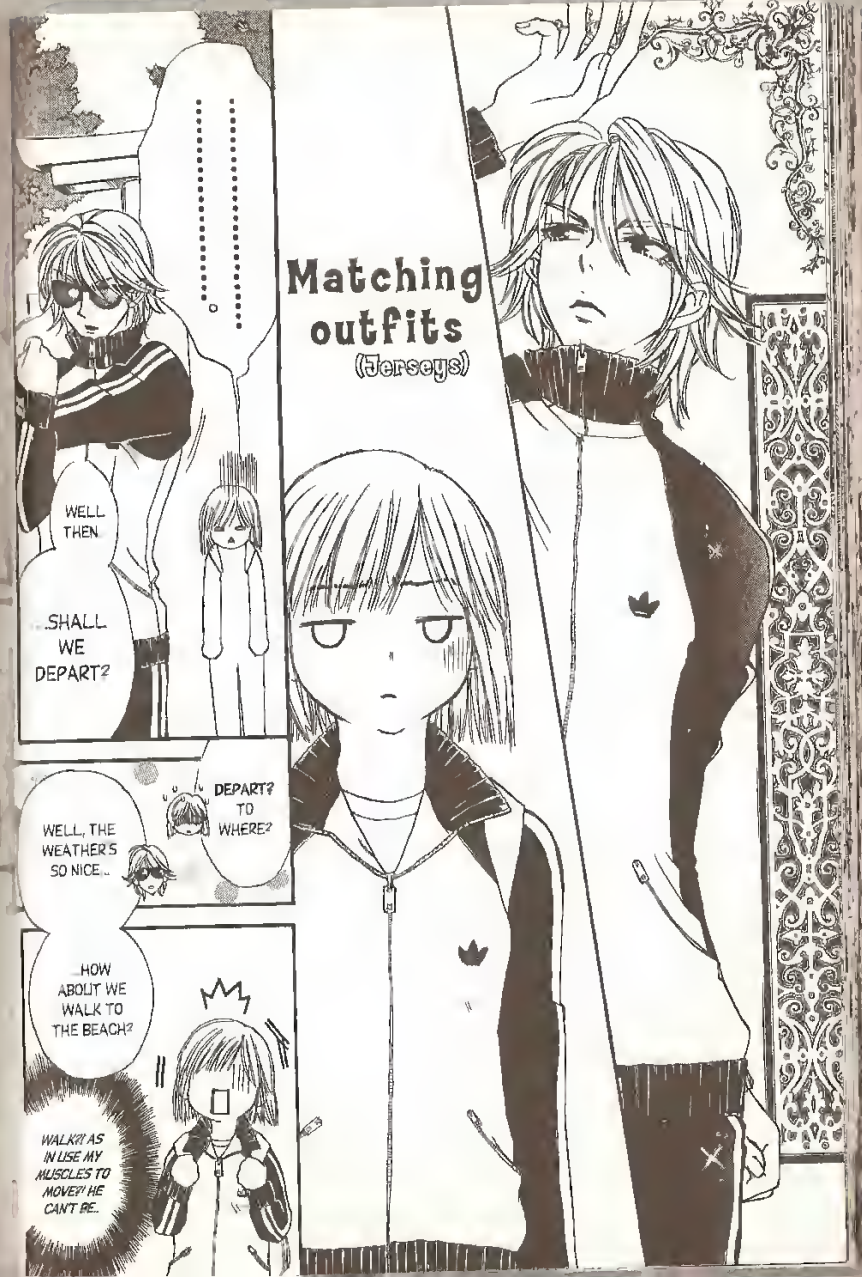

HE GIVES ME CLOTHES, COOKS ME DINNER AND NOW WE'RE GOING OUT TOGETHER!
BUT.. I DON'T GET IT!
IT KINDA SOUNDS LIKE A DATE TO ME.
..TOO LONG
JUST DON'T KEEP ME WAITING.
パタン
だら だら

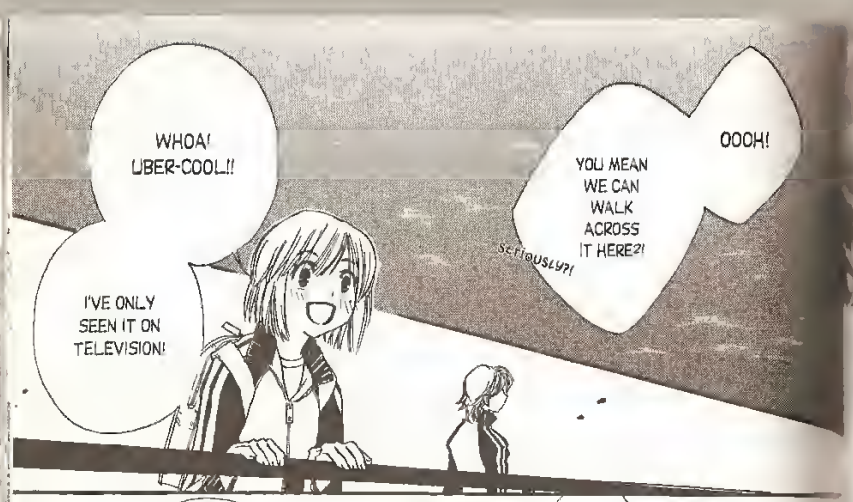
OH MY!!
THIS IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!!
I CAN SEE HIM NOW... STANDING IN FRONT OF A SHINY RED CORVETTE, FLOWER BOUQUET IN TOW
COME. LET US BE OFF.
DATE OR NOT..
..NO WAY AM I GONNA PASS THIS OPPORTUNITY UP!
ドキ ドキ

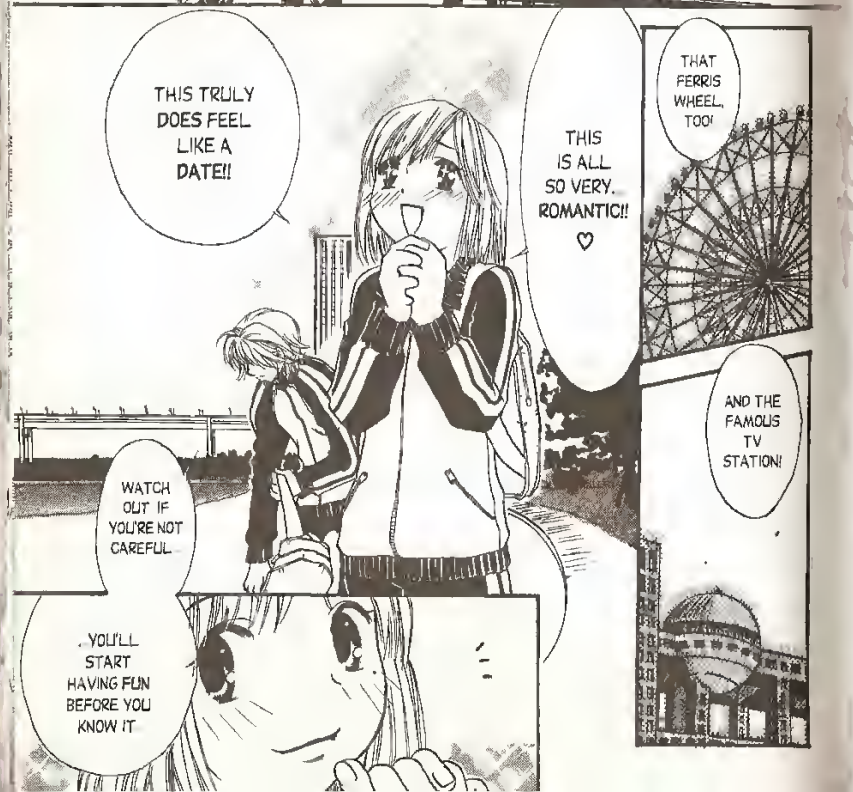

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE.
HUH?

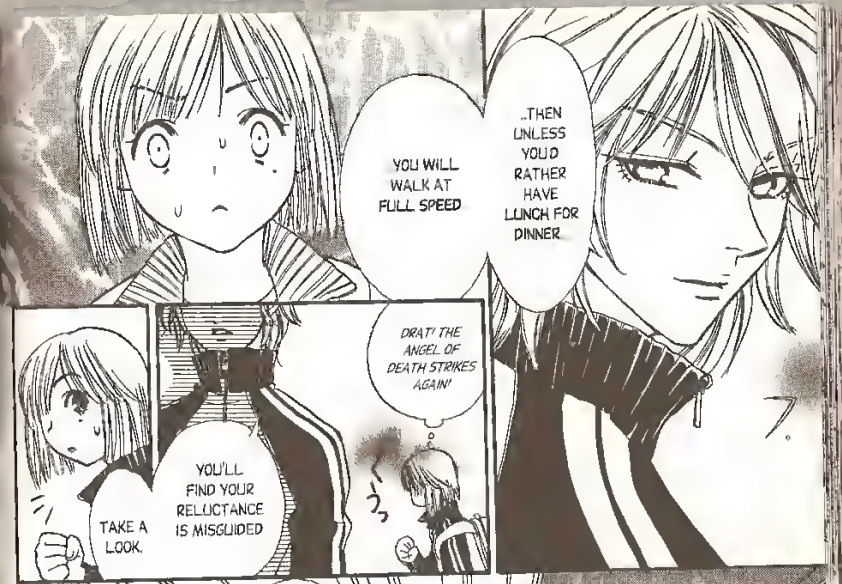
ALMOST FORGOT!
HIS SMILE TRULY IS ANGELIC...!
HE ACTUALLY SMILED!
G-GOING..
..OUT?
WE'RE GOING OUT TODAY.
CHANGE INTO THIS ONCE YOU'RE DONE EATING
HERE.
YES.

LOOK AT THAT CUTE GUY! ♡
SAAAY...
...SERIOUS?! HE IS, HE REALLY IS!!
Gasp!
I KNEW IT! I KNEW PEOPLE WOULD THINK I'M HIS FUGLY ASSISTANT OR SOMETHING!
I WONDER... DID HE KNOW THIS WOULD HAPPEN?! IS HE TRYING TO SHAME ME!
WADA-SAN...
SHE MUST BE SOME KINDA ERRAND GIRL OR SOMETHING
GIRL... HE'S BEYOND CUTE! ♡
MAYBE HE'S A MODEL!
OOH! MAYBE HE'S ON A PHOTO SHOOT!
THAT GIRL...
...THAT'S WITH HIM...
IF THAT'S NOT THE CASE...
I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE I WAS FALLING BEHIND!
OH... ERM, N-NO!
HUH?
...YOU WOULDN'T BE KEEPING YOUR DISTANCE ON PURPOSE, WOULD YOU?
WHAT THE--?!
20m


Matching outfits
(Jerseys)
WELL THEN...
...SHALL WE DEPART?
DEPART? TO WHERE?
WELL, THE WEATHER'S SO NICE...
...HOW ABOUT WE WALK TO THE BEACH?
WALK?! AS IN USE MY MUSCLES TO MOVE?! HE CAN'T BE...


WHOA! UBER-COOL!!
I'VE ONLY SEEN IT ON TELEVISION!
OOOH!
YOU MEAN WE CAN WALK ACROSS IT HERE?!
SERIOUSLY?!


THIS TRULY DOES FEEL LIKE A DATE!!
THIS IS ALL SO VERY. ROMANTIC!! ♡
THAT FERRIS WHEEL, TOO!
AND THE FAMOUS TV STATION!
WATCH OUT IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL.
. YOU'LL START HAVING FUN BEFORE YOU KNOW IT


..THEN UNLESS YOU'D RATHER HAVE LUNCH FOR DINNER
YOU WILL WALK AT FULL SPEED
DRAT! THE ANGEL OF DEATH STRIKES AGAIN!
YOU'LL FIND YOUR RELUCTANCE IS MISGUIDED
TAKE A LOOK.

WHEN'D WE GET HERE?! I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE!
OH, WOW!
IT'S RAINBOW BRIDGE!
WE'LL HAVE LUNCH AFTER WE CROSS

THAT MAKES SENSE, RIGHT?
HOPEFULLY YOU DON'T PREFER CAFÉ FOOD OVER MY HOME COOKED MEALS.
Erk!
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO LUNCH?
COME SIT BESIDE ME.
OF C-COURSE NOT...
MISAKI?
SO, WHAT'S FOR LUNCH TODAY?

S-SORRY...
ER, I MEAN...
wasn't intending
NO NEED TO APOLO-GIZE
*trauma from last three days
IF IT WASN'T FOR THE JERSEYS–
I MEAN, THEY'RE ALL NEAT PLACES.
I WILL! I MEAN, I AM!! THAT IS, HAVING FUN!!
see my fun face?
IN FACT... HAVING FUN...
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, HAVING "FUN" IS PART OF MY REGIMENT.
ELIMINATING STRESS IS IMPORTANT WHEN DIETING.
...CAN ACTUALLY ENHANCE ONE'S BEAUTY.

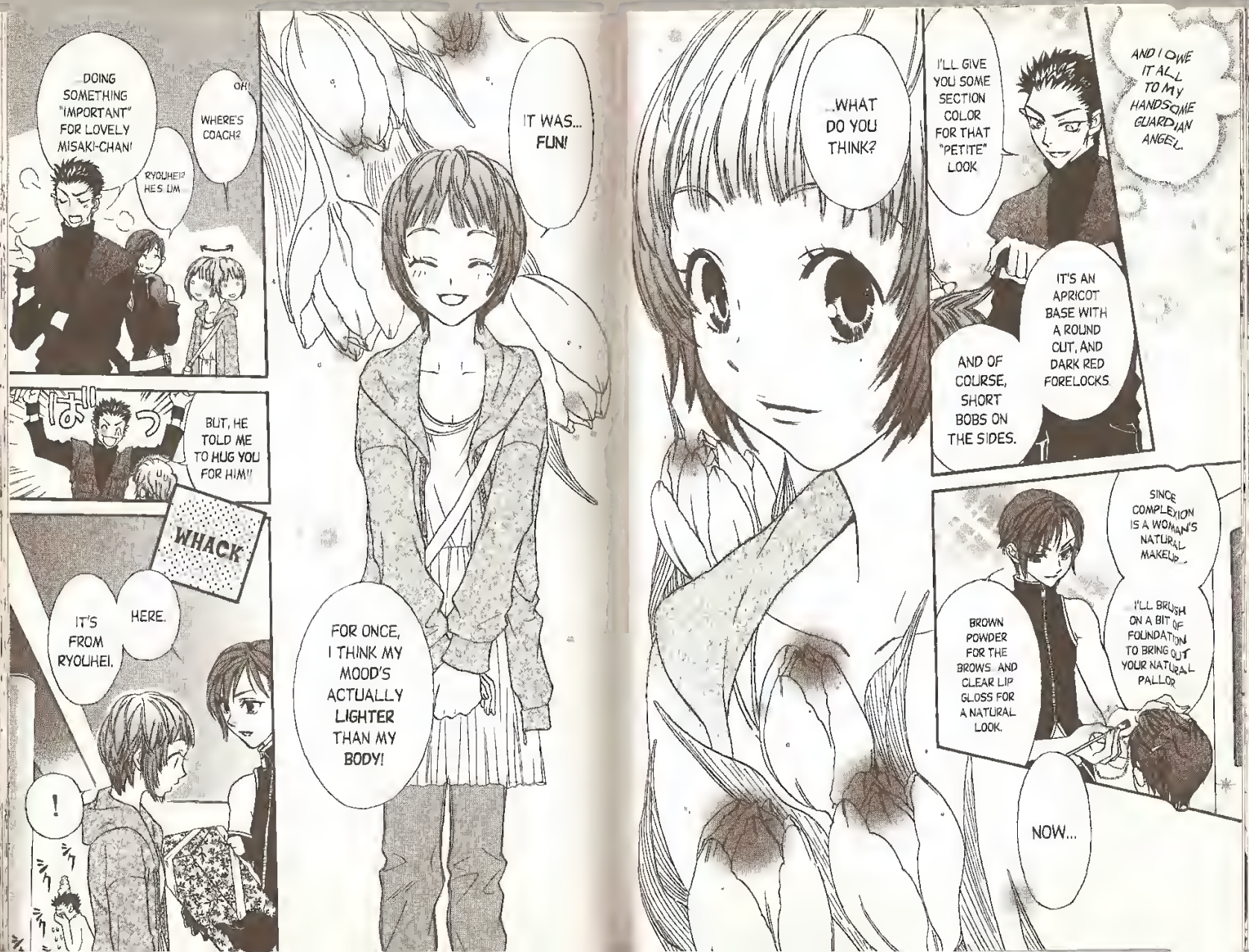
NOW, OPEN WIDE.
YES?
GOODNESS
MY DEAR MISAKI IS QUITE THE SHY ONE, ISN'T SHE?
I ABSOLUTELY LOVE THAT ABOUT HER.

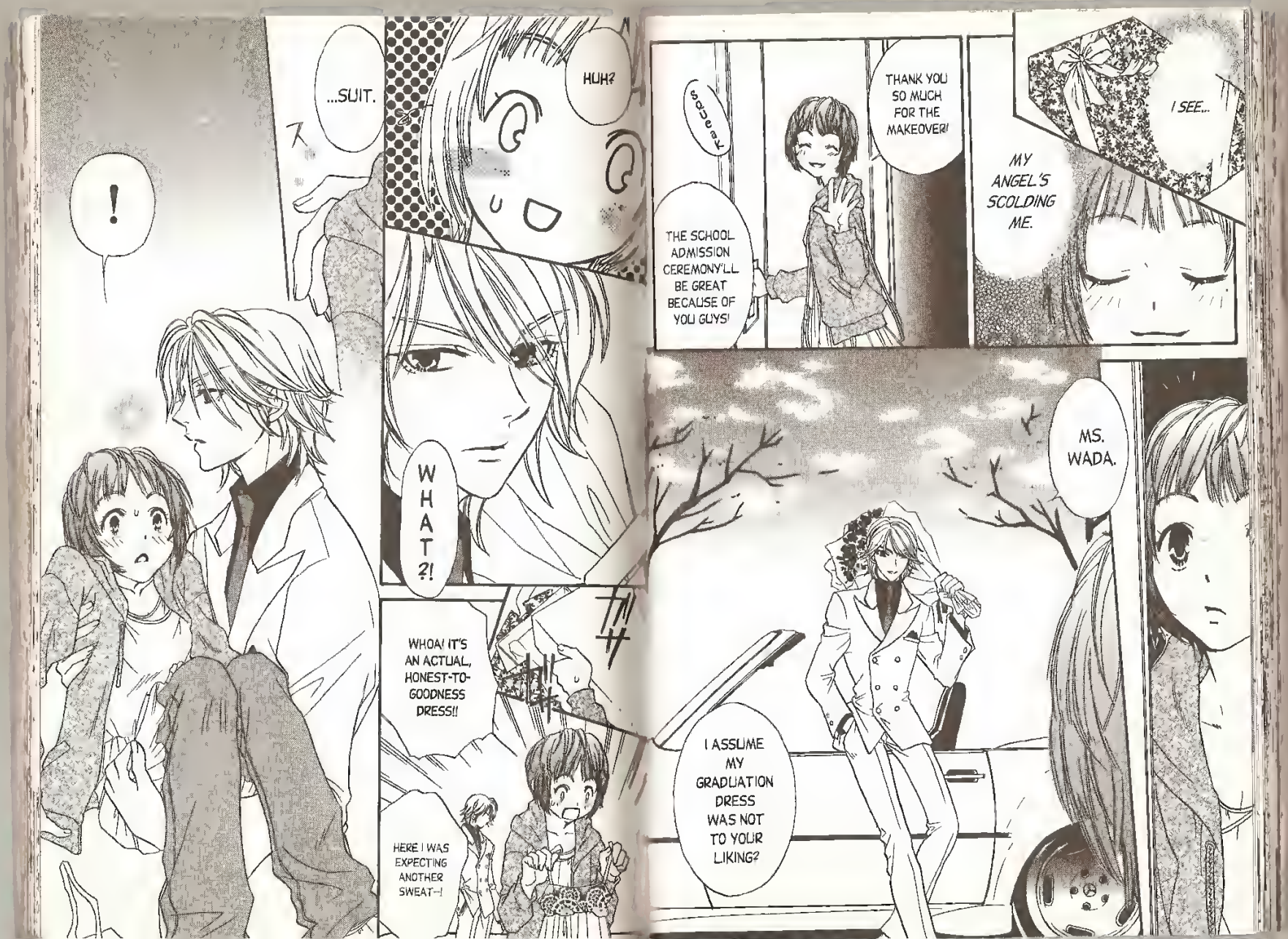
WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?!
KENJI.
O-OH!
MISAKI.. IS THAT YOU?!
HEY... WHO'S THIS CHICK?
THOUGHT SO! FROM WHAT KENJI TOLD ME ABOUT YOU HE COULDN'T BE DATING YOU!
HE'S KINDA MY UM, C-COACH!
N-NO! NO MOVED!
I SEE YOU'VE MOVED ON TOO EH MISAKI?
ERM...
Y-YEAH.
SHE YOUR EX OR SOMETHIN?
HMPH!
AHEH HEH
IS THAT A FACT?
MISAKI.
LOOK AT ME.
THOUGH HIS TASTE IN STUDENTS LEAVES LITTLE TO BE DESIRED
YOUR COACH IS QUITE THE LOOKER.
TEE HEE!
G-GO EASY, BABE!

OH! NOBUO-KUN! SEE...
YOU KNOW
..BUT THEN I WOULD BE STOOPING TO NOBUO'S LEVEL.
HUH?
I COULD'VE DONE SOMETHING MALICIOUS AND CONNIVING.
フフ
OH, NO. NOT THAT.
YOU M-MEAN, THE PART WHEN YOU SAID "MY DEAR MISAKI"?!
THERE IS A BIG DISCREPANCY BETWEEN TRUE BEAUTY AND HOW PEOPLE MEASURE IT.
...EVERYTHING I TOLD THEM IS TRUE.
EH?
SURE SHE MAY BE AS THIN AS A TWIG. BUT THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO HER
BUT YOU.. YOU'RE EATING AND ENJOYING YOURSELF
YOUR HAPPINESS MAKES YOU MORE ATTRACTIVE, REGARDLESS OF WEIGHT

PAY NO HEED TO SUCH TRIVIAL DISTRACTIONS, MY DEAR
I'M HAPPY ENOUGH JUST WATCHING YOU...
...DINE UPON MY LOVINGLY MADE LUNCH INSTEAD.
Y-YES...
L-LET'S EAT H-HAPPY...
Frozen
UM O-OKAY, THEN..
だら〜だら
UUUUH...
HMPH.
THANKS. WE WILL.
ENJOY YOUR LUNCH

THANK YOU.
I FINALLY FEEL GOOD ABOUT MYSELF.
I'M ACCEPTING WHO I AM.. AND HAVING FUN IN THE PROCESS
Revenge on the ex-boyfriend!
OKAY..
NOW THAT HALF OF THE JOB'S DONE.. HOW ABOUT WE FINISH THE REST OF IT?
YOU BET, COACH!
"DIET? YOU CAN DO IT IF YOU WANT, BUT..."
"...I DON'T THINK YOU REALLY NEED ONE."
"I LIKE YOU THE BEST WHEN YOU'RE HAVING A BITE."
"YOU LOOK SO HAPPY WHEN YOU'RE DIGGING INTO FOOD."
"IT WON'T MAKE YOU THINNER, OKAY?!"
"WHY'RE YOU SUCKING YOUR CHEEKS IN LIKE THAT?!"
I SEE...
I FINALLY GET IT.
I CANNOT BE THE ONLY ONE WHO THINKS THIS.
"LOOK HOW CUTE YOU LOOK!"
I GUESS THIS IS WHAT THEY MEAN BY
...WHAT WAS ONCE LOST IN DARKNESS HAS FOUND THE GUIDING LIGHT.


...DOING SOMETHING "IMPORTANT" FOR LOVELY MISAKI-CHAN!
OH!
WHERE'S COACH?
RYOUHEI? HE'S UM
IT WAS... FUN!
BUT, HE TOLD ME TO HUG YOU FOR HIM!!
WHACK
IT'S FROM RYOUHEI.
HERE.
!
FOR ONCE, I THINK MY MOOD'S ACTUALLY LIGHTER THAN MY BODY!
...WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I'LL GIVE YOU SOME SECTION COLOR FOR THAT "PETITE" LOOK
AND I OWE IT ALL TO MY HANDSOME GUARDIAN ANGEL.
IT'S AN APRICOT BASE WITH A ROUND CUT, AND DARK RED FORELOCKS
AND OF COURSE, SHORT BOBS ON THE SIDES.
SINCE COMPLEXION IS A WOMAN'S NATURAL MAKEUP...
I'LL BRUSH ON A BIT OF FOUNDATION TO BRING OUT YOUR NATURAL PALLOR
BROWN POWDER FOR THE BROWS AND CLEAR LIP GLOSS FOR A NATURAL LOOK.
NOW...

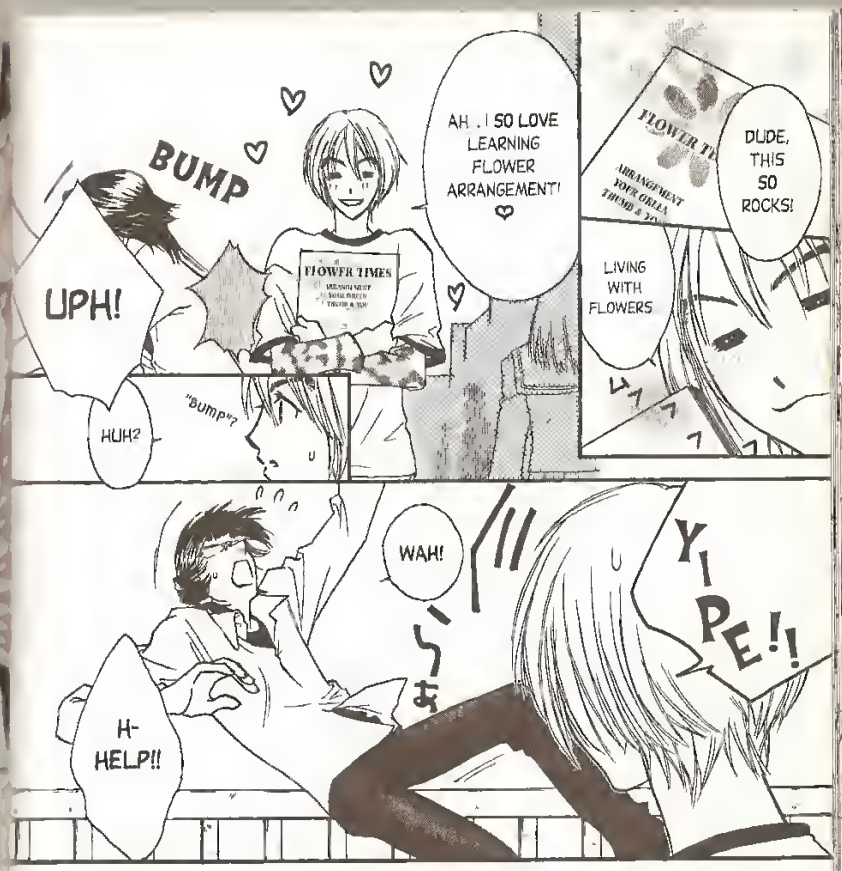

I SEE...
MY ANGEL'S SCOLDING ME.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE MAKEOVER!
THANKS!
THE SCHOOL ADMISSION CEREMONY'LL BE GREAT BECAUSE OF YOU GUYS!
MS. WADA.
I ASSUME MY GRADUATION DRESS WAS NOT TO YOUR LIKING?
HUH?
...SUIT.
!
WHAT?!
WHOA! IT'S AN ACTUAL, HONEST-TO-GOODNESS DRESS!!
HERE I WAS EXPECTING ANOTHER SWEAT-!

The Knockout Makers

CHAPTER 4

MS. WADA, IF I MAY BE SO BOLD...
...MAY I TAKE THE GIRL WHO K.O.'D ME TO LUNCH?
Hee hee!
...IT WAS MADE WITH LOVE BY MY HANDS
THOUGH, IN KEEPING WITH TRADITION
ORDER UP--ANOTHER SATISFIED CUSTOMER!
A CHEF NEVER REVEALS HIS SECRETS
SO MY HANDSOME CHEF, WHAT'S FOR DESSERT?
HEH HEH!
SO LONG!

CHAPTER 3 /END



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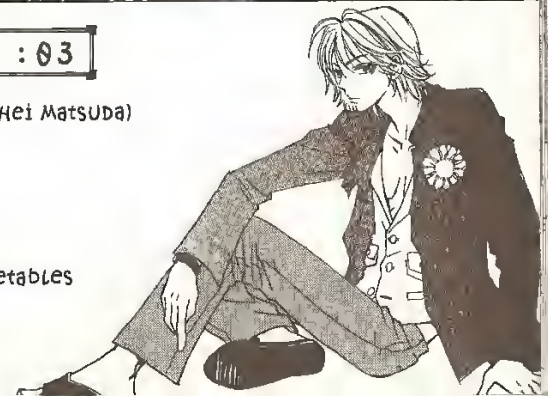


松田 諒兵 (RYOUHei MATSUDA)

Height: 180.5cm

Blood Type: AB

Birth Date: Oct. 19

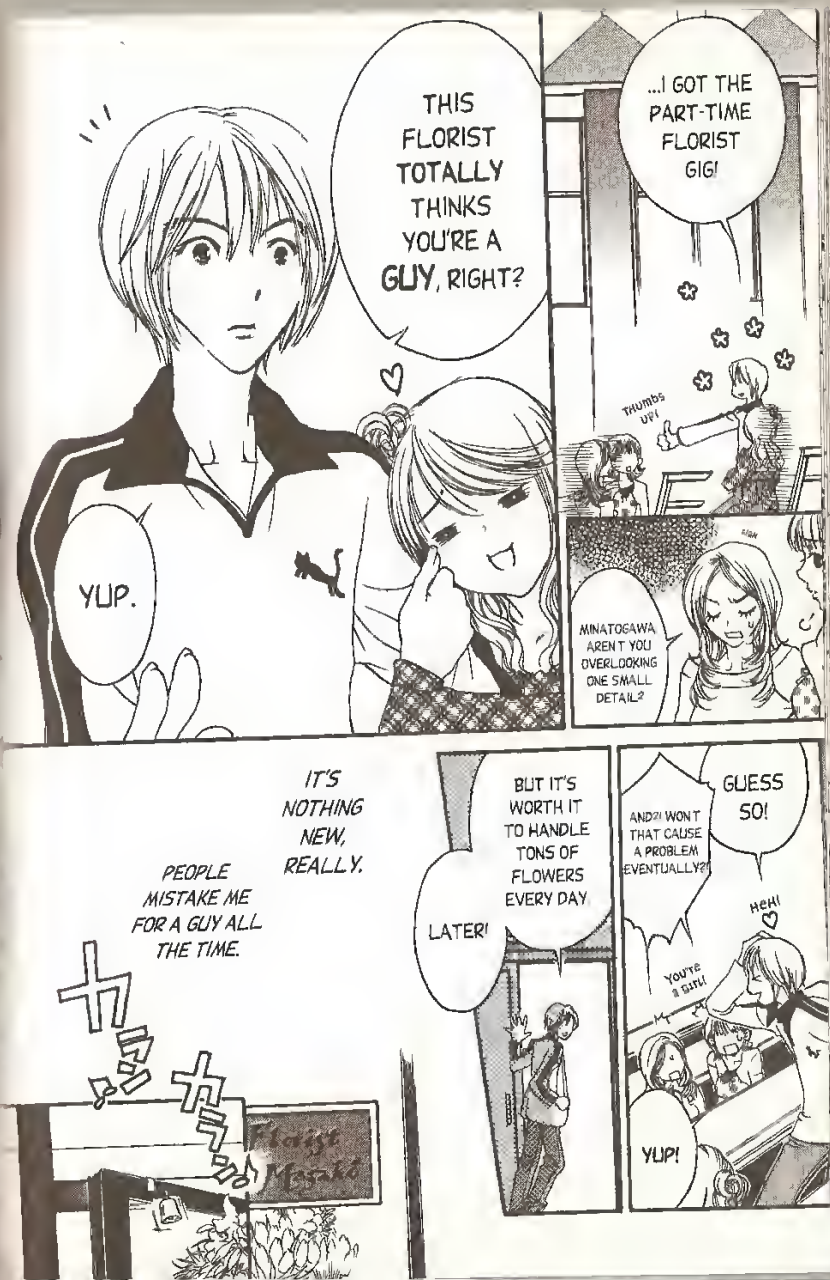
Likes: organic vegetables

Effort

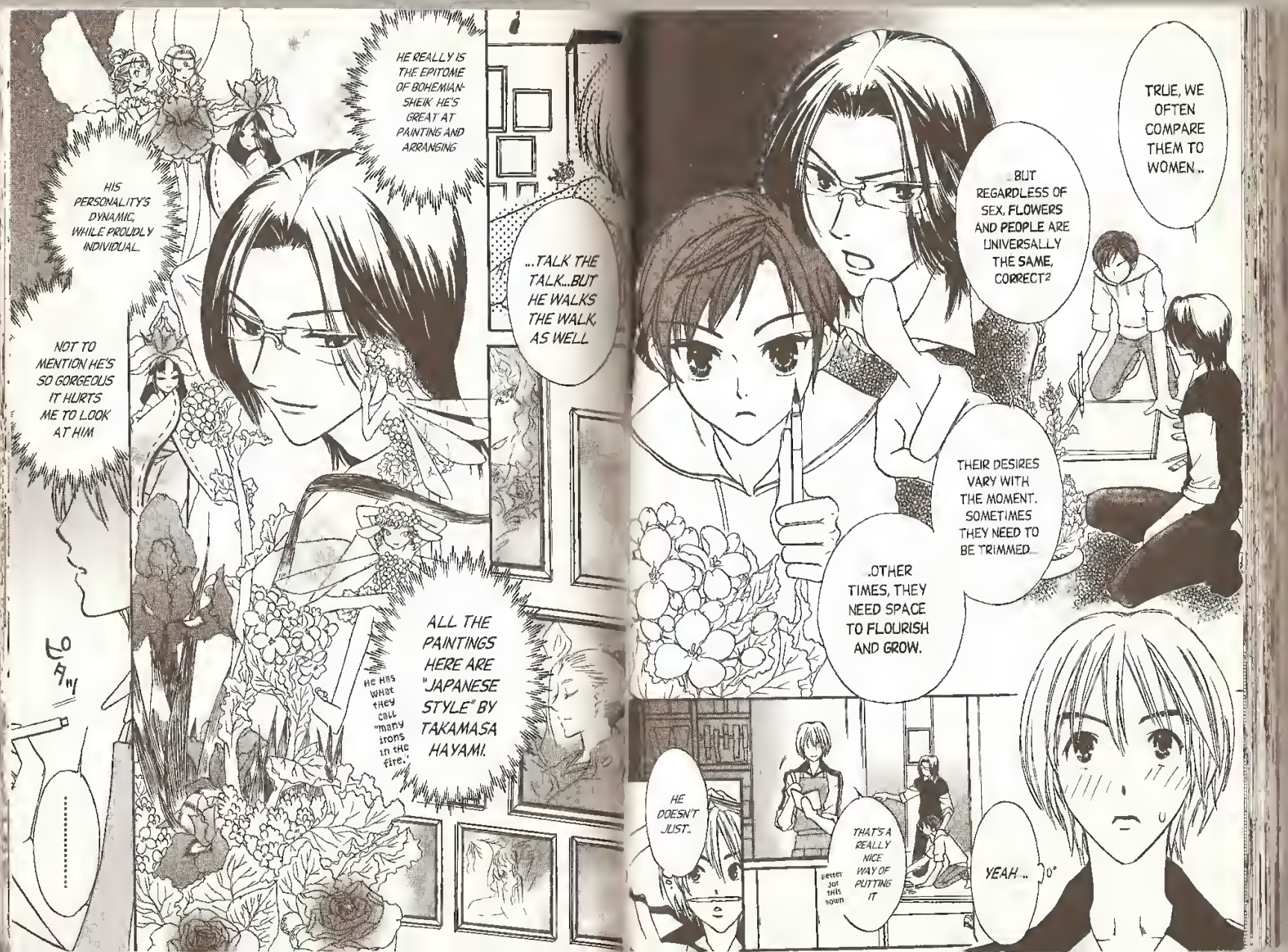
ER...
M-MY NAME IS KOUKI MINATOGAWA! I'M A NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD COLLEGE SOPHOMORE..
..AND I SIMPLY LOVE FLOWERS! SO MUCH SO, I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO LEARN FLOWER DESIGN!
PLEASE HIRE ME! YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED!
MY BIG FLOWERY CHANCE!!
MY SHOP, "FflorIst MasaKi," IS NEARBY
F--
FLORIST?
THIS IS IT!
FOR REALS?!
OKAY SURE
SO WELCOME ABOARD, KOUKI-KUN!
NICE TO MEETCHA, KOUKI. I'M TAKAMASA HAYAMI.
YOU'RE IN LUCK! I WAS ACTUALLY LOOKING FOR A PART-TIMER.
AND THAT'S HOW...

I G-GUESS NOT. HEH...
.....
THANKS
REALLY! I AM SO SO SORRY!
SORRY!!
SO INSTEAD OF SAVING ME, YOU SAVED THE FLOWERS.
I MAY NOT HAVE A REPLACEMENT FOR THESE BUT...
..DON'T WORRY.
I HAVE A CHANGE OF CLOTHES TO GET INTO.
Twist
Drip

I'M REALLY LUCKY TO BE WORKING FOR...
...A KIND-HEARTED FLORIST LIKE TAKAMASA
AH! KOUKI-KUN!
THE CUSTOMER FROM THE OTHER DAY WAS REALLY HAPPY WITH..
Let me help!
THANKS
YEAH THEY SAID THE BRIDE WAS COMPLETELY BLOWN AWAY
REALLY? COOL!
YEAH?
..THAT BOUQUET YOU MADE
IT APPEARS YOU'RE REALLY GOOD..
...AT TAPPING INTO YOUR INNER WOMAN.
ALL MALES HAVE A FEMININE SIDE TO THEIR NATURE. MOST CHOOSE NOT TO UNDERSTAND IT.
ELECTING TO INSTEAD BURY IT IN AN AVALANCHE OF MACHISMO.
M-MY WHAT?!

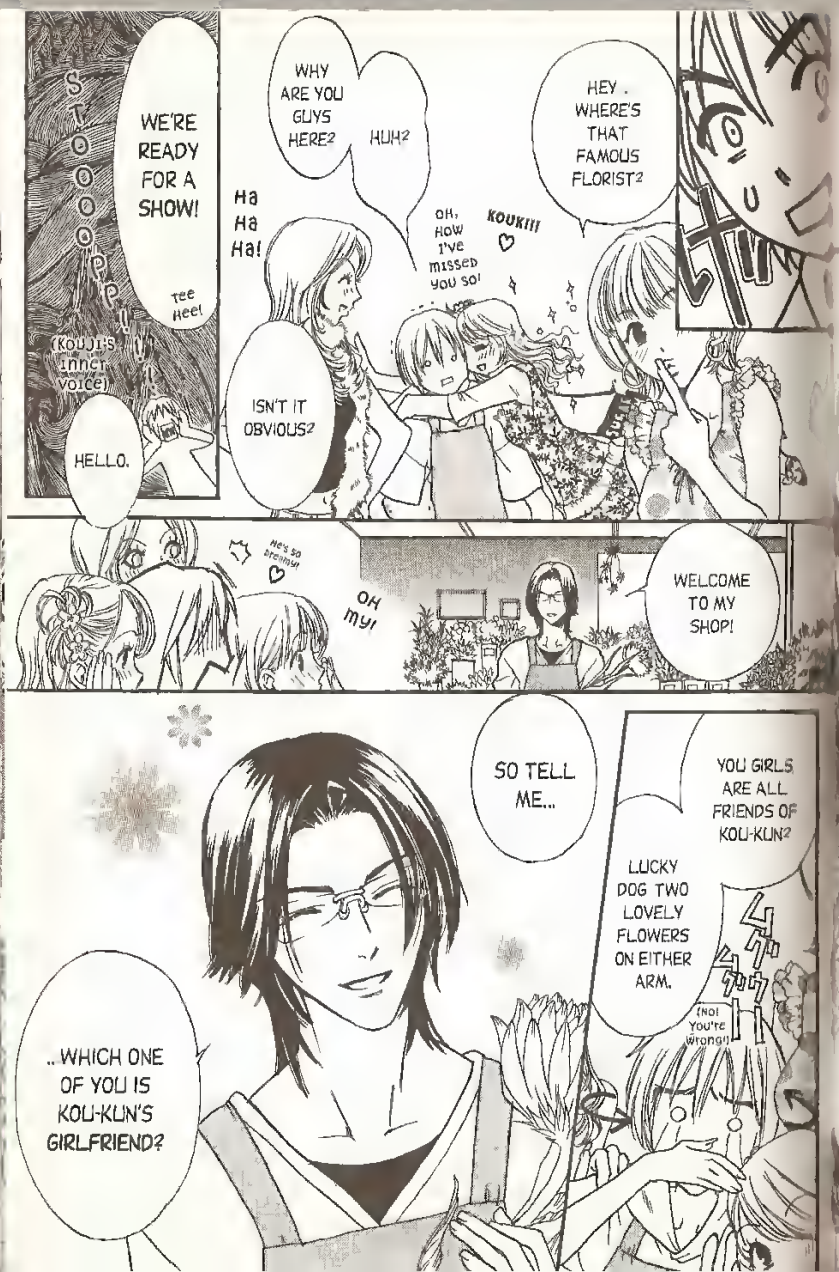

THIS FLORIST TOTALLY THINKS YOU'RE A GUY, RIGHT?
YUP.
...I GOT THE PART-TIME FLORIST GIG!
THUMBS UP!
MINATOGAWA, AREN'T YOU OVERLOOKING ONE SMALL DETAIL?
IT'S NOTHING NEW, REALLY.
PEOPLE MISTAKE ME FOR A GUY ALL THE TIME.
カランコロン
Florist Misaki
LATER!
BUT IT'S WORTH IT TO HANDLE TONS OF FLOWERS EVERY DAY.
AND?! WON'T THAT CAUSE A PROBLEM EVENTUALLY?!
GUESS SO!
HEH!
YOU'RE A DATE!
YUP!

HE CAME HERE TO LEARN THE ART OF JAPANESE PAINTING FROM TAKAMASA-SAN FOR TWO WEEKS
NOW, TOSHI-KUN...
..DON'T JUST LOOK AT THE FLOWERS.
FEEL THE FLOWERS' VERY SPIRITS.
THE MAD MIDGET IS A FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD BOY NAMED TOSHIHIRO SAKUMA-KUN
HMM...
FINE. BUT JUST KNOW I'M MASTER'S NUMBER ONE PUPIL--PERIOD!
What big eyes you h-have...
HE'S TAKAMASA-SAN'S COUSIN
O-OKAY...
What crawled up his butt?!
BUT YOU... YOU HAVE LEARNED TO USE IT! THAT'S WHY YOU'RE A NATURAL AT ARRANGEMENT, KOU-KUN.
YOU'RE REALLY ONE HELLUVA GUY!
YES. VERY MUCH, SO!
I'M A HELLUVA GUY?
AH, TOSHI-KUN.
WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THIS NOOB, MASTER?!
KOU-KUN'S JUST WORKING PART TIME
AHH
WHO?
NOOB?
KOU-KUN?!
HOW CAN HE NOT HAVE A CLUE THAT I'M REALLY A GIRL?!
WHATTA BLOCK-HEAD!!
MASTER!!


HE REALLY IS THE EPITOME OF BOHEMIAN-SHEIK. HE'S GREAT AT PAINTING AND ARRANGING
HIS PERSONALITY'S DYNAMIC, WHILE PROUDLY INDIVIDUAL.
...TALK THE TALK...BUT HE WALKS THE WALK, AS WELL
NOT TO MENTION HE'S SO GORGEOUS IT HURTS ME TO LOOK AT HIM
He has what they call "many irons in the fire."
ALL THE PAINTINGS HERE ARE "JAPANESE STYLE" BY TAKAMASA HAYAMI.
TRUE, WE OFTEN COMPARE THEM TO WOMEN..
..BUT REGARDLESS OF SEX, FLOWERS AND PEOPLE ARE UNIVERSALLY THE SAME, CORRECT?
THEIR DESIRES VARY WITH THE MOMENT. SOMETIMES THEY NEED TO BE TRIMMED...
..OTHER TIMES, THEY NEED SPACE TO FLOURISH AND GROW.
HE DOESN'T JUST..
better for this town
THAT'S A REALLY NICE WAY OF PUTTING IT
YEAH..

HERE.
AN ANNIVERSARY GIFT
YOU'RE THE FIRST PART-TIMER WHO'S LASTED A WEEK.
SO THIS IS YOUR "ONE WHOLE WEEK" BOUQUET.
CHEESY, I KNOW. BUT I COULDN'T RESIST. ESPECIALLY WHEN I FIRST HEARD YOUR NAME
WHAT IS--
OH, WOW...
"KOUKI" MEANS VIBRANT RED TULIP.
I'D SAY THAT NAME SUITS YOU WELL.
...I'VE NEVER SEEN EYES AS EARNEST AS HIS
HIS FACE. WHEN I LOOK AT HIM, IT'S LIKE I'VE KNOWN HIM MY WHOLE LIFE...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT..
LIKE RECEIVING THE GAZE OF A LONG-TIME LOVER...
Gasp
WELL, SORRY FOR KEEPING YOU SO LATE.
N-NO!! I'M F-FINE! NOTHING TO LOSE YOUR SHIRT OVER! OH! ERM. NOT THAT I WANT YOUR SHIRT OFF!! HEH HEH!
YOU CAN CLOCK OUT IF YOU WANT
BUT FIRST, THERE IS ONE MORE THING...
ささ
WHAA!
WHAT AM I THINKING?! BAD THOUGHTS OUT! GOOD THOUGHTS IN!
IS THERE A PROBLEM?
A bug in your hair perhaps?
SO ASHAMED!!

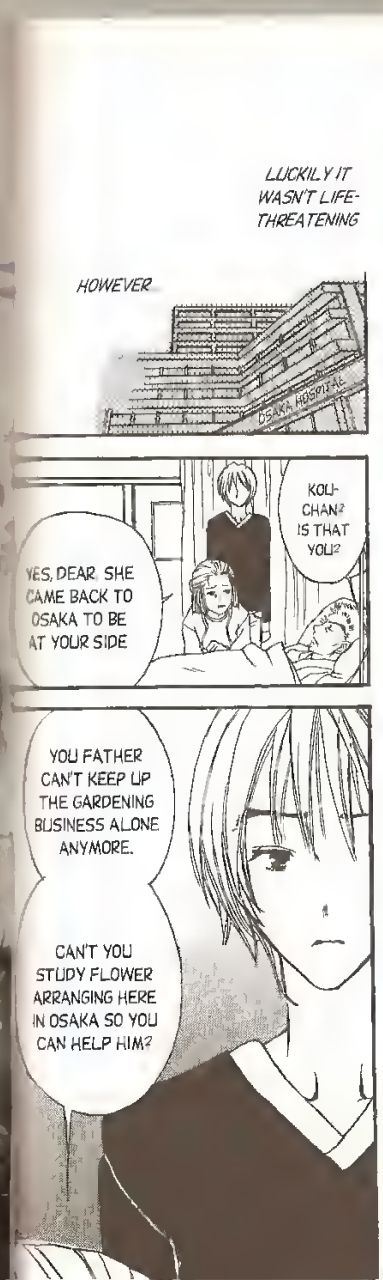
I'M GL--
ENOUGH, ALREADY!!
I SEE.
PHEW!
THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME..
..THAT SOMEONE S MADE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THAT FLOWER AND MY NAME.
SO I'LL TAKE REAL GOOD CARE OF THEM.
YOU'RE STILL HERE?!
KOUKI-SAN...
TOSHIHIRO-KUN?
...JUST LEAVE MY MASTER OUT OF IT!
. LOOK, I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE GAY OR A FAG OR WHATEVER...
IT MAKES ME SICK SEEING AN OAF LIKE YOU GET ALL MUSHY OVER HIM!
SERIOUSLY- WHAT IS WITH THAT KID?!
M-MY DAD...
YES?
YOUR DAD?
IT WAS THE MOST PRECIOUS GIFT SHE EVER RECIEVED
..HE GAVE THE SAME FLOWERS TO MY MOM
Mom
Dad
SO, EVEN BEFORE I WAS BORN, BEFORE THEY KNEW MY SEX..
...THEY WANTED MY NAME TO BE "KOUKI."
SO THANK YOU.
OF COURSE, AH.
..IF A GUY GIVING YOU FLOWERS KINDA WEIRDS YOU OUT..
...THEN YOU CAN JUST GIVE THEM BACK, NO HARM, NO FOUL.


STOOOOPP!!
(KOUJI's inner voice)
WE'RE READY FOR A SHOW!
tee hee!
HELLO.
WHY ARE YOU GUYS HERE?
HUH?
Ha Ha Ha!
OH, HOW I'VE MISSED YOU SO!
KOUKI!!!
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
HEY. WHERE'S THAT FAMOUS FLORIST?
he's so dreamy!
OH my!
WELCOME TO MY SHOP!
SO TELL ME...
..WHICH ONE OF YOU IS KOU-KUN'S GIRLFRIEND?
YOU GIRLS ARE ALL FRIENDS OF KOU-KUN?
LUCKY DOG TWO LOVELY FLOWERS ON EITHER ARM.
(No! You're wrong!)

sigh...
oops!
SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
NOT YOUR FAULT, "KOUKI."
GAY, HE SAYS? A FAG, HE SAYS?!
SO HE GAVE ME FLOWERS AND I'M HAPPY--BIG FRIGGIN' DEAL!
AND JUST HOW WAS I BEING MUSHY?!
LOOKIT ALL THE GORGEOUS FLOWERS!!
"I'D SAY THAT NAME SUITS YOU WELL."
HMM...MY FLOWER, HUH?

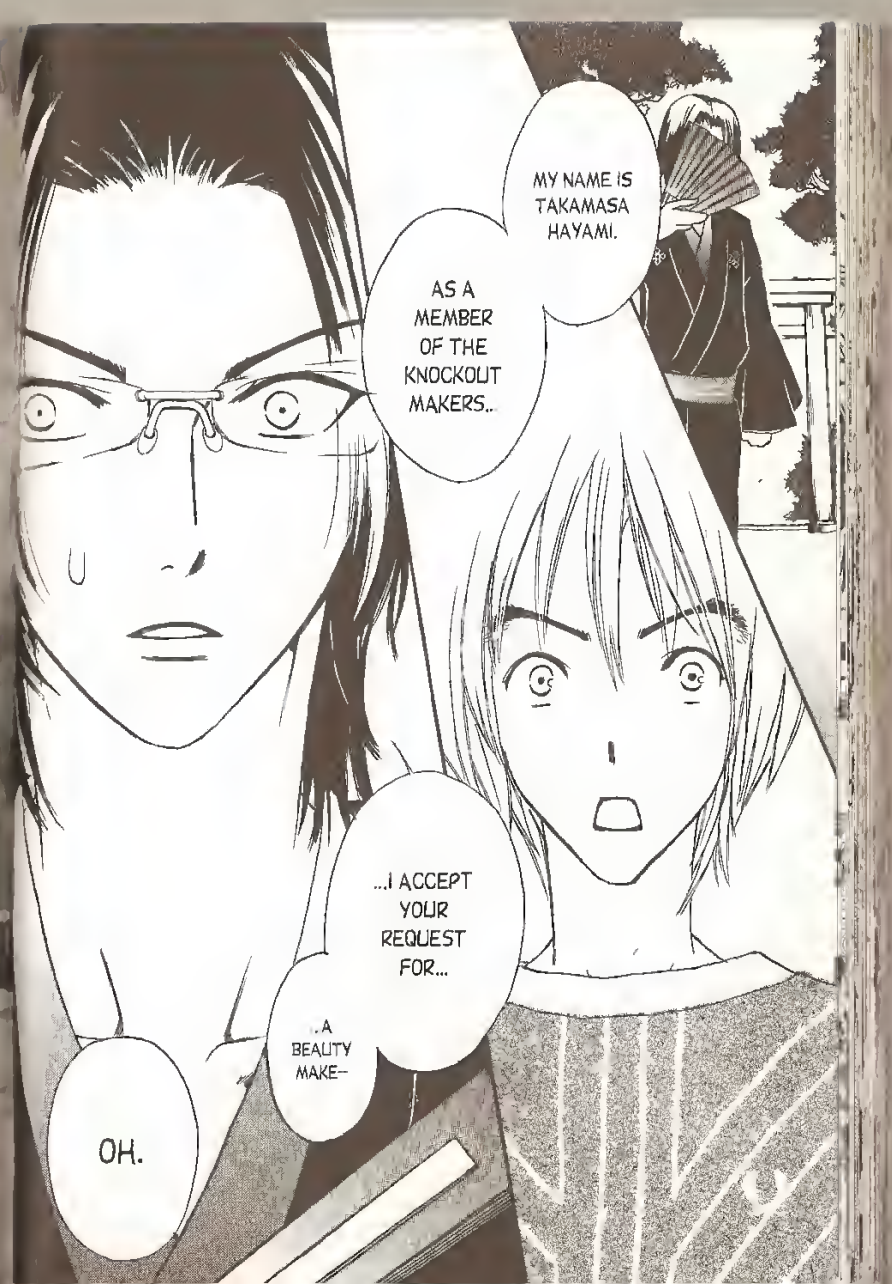
SO THAT'S THE ISSUE HERE.
Always the cute ones...
MINATO-GAWA?
RIGHT, MINATO-GAWA?
MINATOGAWA... YOU'RE CRYING?
HUH? N-NO I'M NOT!
J-JUST MY ALLERGIES!
TH-THAT'S MY CELL RINGING.
HELLO?
OKAY— BYE.
NO WAY...
SORRY.
HUH?
WHAT'S UP, MOM? WHAT DO YOU--
BY THE WAY, MISTER.
DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
IT'S ME!!
Ooh!!
I'M FLATTERED, REALLY I AM, BUT...
...I'M NOT REALLY INTO GIRLS.
WHY NO...I-I DON'T.
OH REALLY...?
THEN PERHAPS I'M YOUR TYPE, HMM?
O-OH... AH...
Don't you already have a boyfriend?
Well, see you before

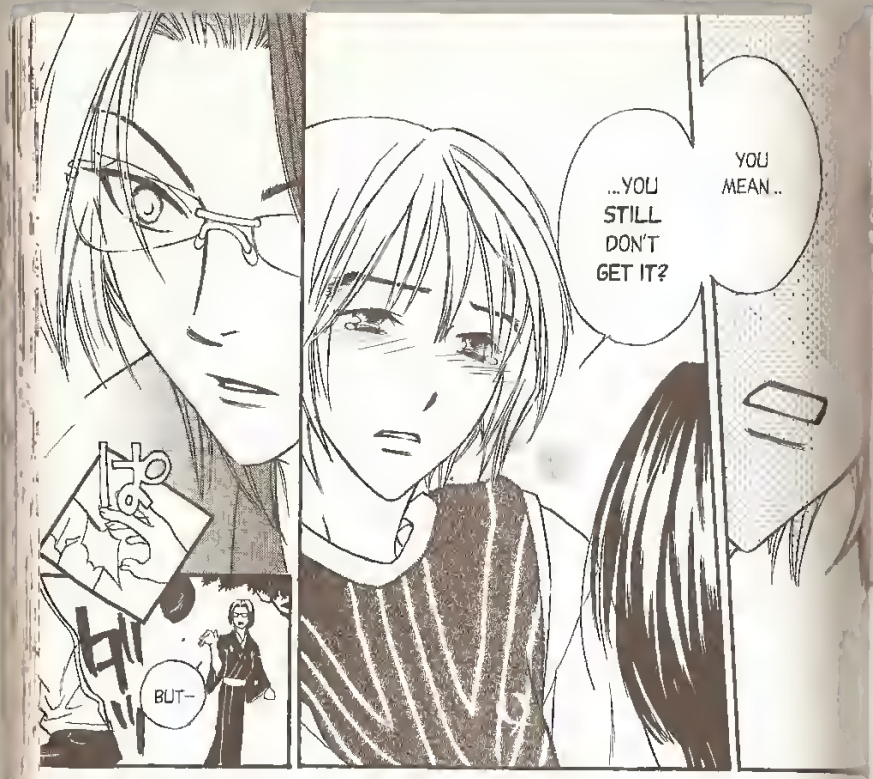
MOM...DAD...
I'M SORRY
I WASN'T
THERE!
...I NEED
TO GO TO
TOKYO
JUST ONE
MORE
TIME.
BUT
BEFORE
I DO...
YEAH
SURE
THING,
MOM
I KNOW!
MAYBE THAT
MYSTERIOUS
MAKEOVER
WEBSITE
CAN HELP!
I CAN'T GO
ON LIKE
THIS!
...YET HE
THINKS
I'M A
MAN.
I just need the confidence to confess that I'm a woman!
SEND
PLEASE...
HOW COULD
I HAVE BEEN
SO BLIND
BEFORE?!
SO HE
DOESN'T
LIKE
GIRLS.
KOUKI
MINATOGAWA
SAN, I PRESUME?
...KNOCKOUT
MAKERS,
HELP ME...!

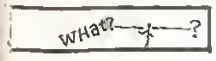

LUCKILY IT
WASN'T LIFE-
THREATENING
HOWEVER
OSAKA HOSPITAL
KOU-
CHAN?
IS THAT
YOU?
YES, DEAR. SHE
CAME BACK TO
OSAKA TO BE
AT YOUR SIDE
YOU FATHER
CAN'T KEEP UP
THE GARDENING
BUSINESS ALONE
ANYMORE.
CAN'T YOU
STUDY FLOWER
ARRANGING HERE
IN OSAKA SO YOU
CAN HELP HIM?

I...I'VE
GOTTA
TAKE SOME
TIME OFF.
NO
PROBLEM.
IS, UH,
EVERY-
THING ALL
RIGHT?
OH... IT'S
JUST MY
DAD.
HE'S OVER
IN OSAKA
AND HE, UM,
F-FAINTED,
IS ALL.

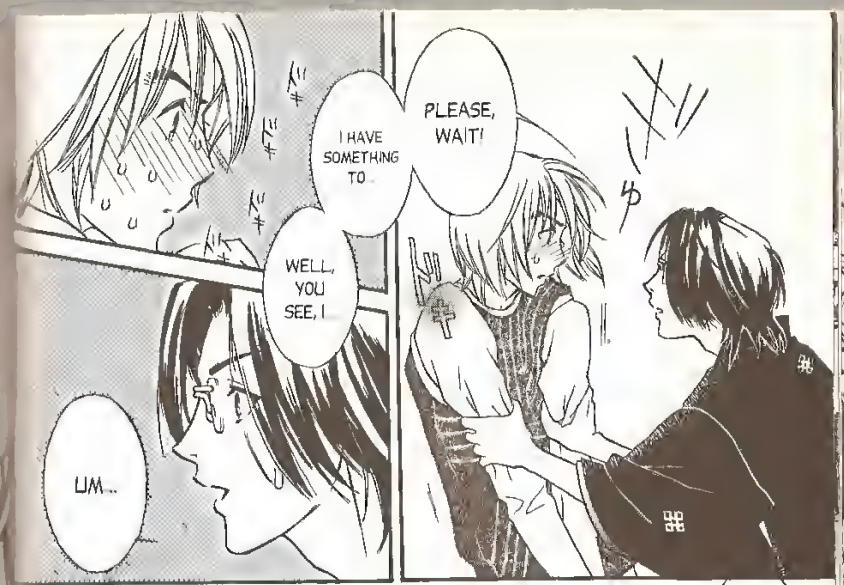
OH NO...
THIS ISN'T HAPPENING!
HEY--!!
WAIT!!
KOU-KUN!
...A WOMAN?
KOU-KUN... YOU'RE...
.....

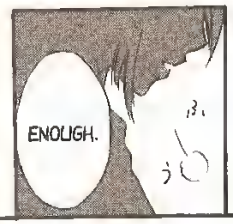

MY NAME IS TAKAMASA HAYAMI.
AS A MEMBER OF THE KNOCKOUT MAKERS..
...I ACCEPT YOUR REQUEST FOR...
..A BEAUTY MAKE--
OH.

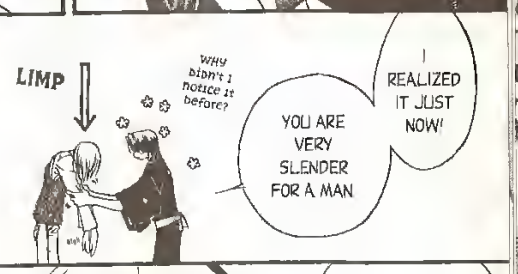

BUT–
..YOU STILL DON'T GET IT?
YOU MEAN..

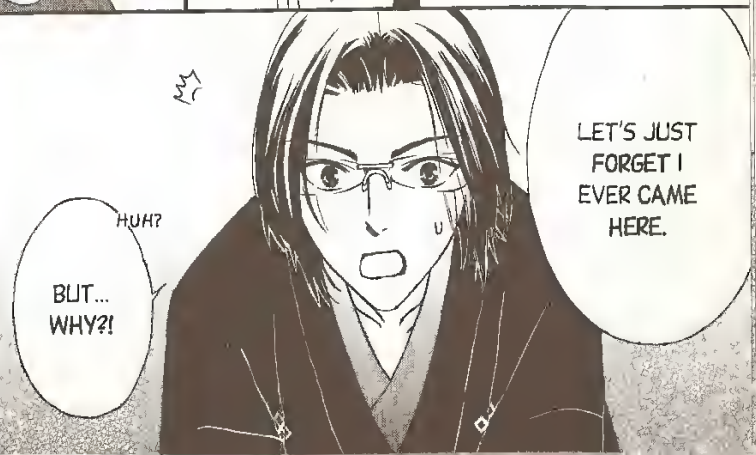

WHat?—

..WRAPS THINGS UP, MASTER.
THAT PRETTY MUCH..
OKAY.

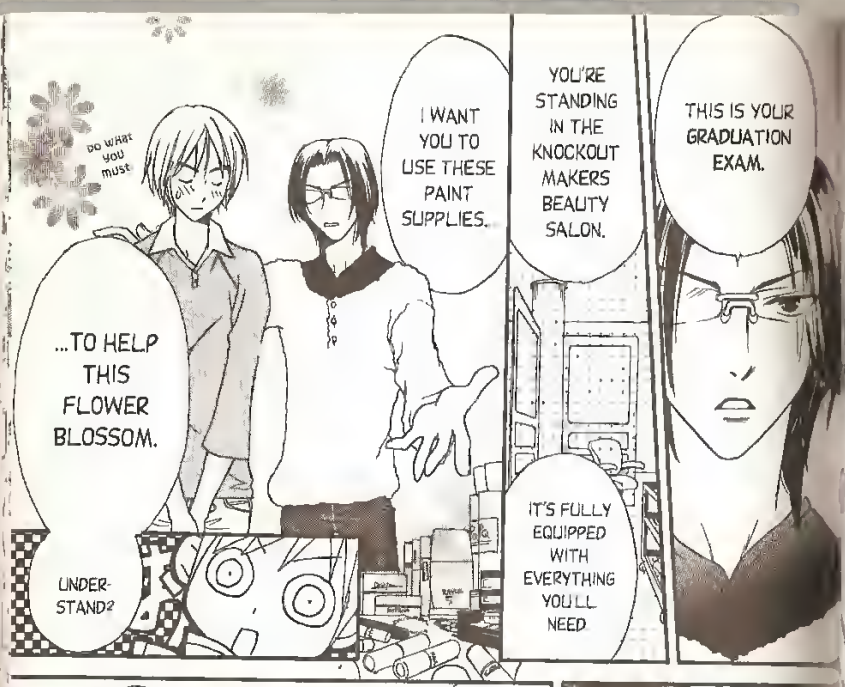

UM...
WELL, YOU SEE, I
I HAVE SOMETHING TO..
PLEASE, WAIT!


ENOUGH.


LIMP
WHY didn't I notice it before?
YOU ARE VERY SLENDER FOR A MAN
I REALIZED IT JUST NOW!


HUH?
BUT... WHY?!
LET'S JUST FORGET I EVER CAME HERE.

KOUKI...
GASP!
TAKAMASA-SAN? WH-WHAT ARE YOU--
..AS I SAID BEFORE, I FULLY APPROVE..
...YOUR APPLICATION FOR A MAKEOVER.
B-BUT! I DON'T--
NOT UP FOR DISCUSSION!
TOSHI-KUN
CAN YOU DO ME A BIG FAVOR?
YES I SUPPOSE.
YEP.
I'M HEADING OUT.
HUH? BUT IT'S POURING BUCKETS!
202
MINAT OGAWA
TIME TO GO...
THE REST IS ALREADY ON ITS WAY IN THE MOVING VAN.
THERE. THAT'S THE LAST OF IT.


Do what you must
I WANT YOU TO USE THESE PAINT SUPPLIES.
YOU'RE STANDING IN THE KNOCKOUT MAKERS BEAUTY SALON.
THIS IS YOUR GRADUATION EXAM.
...TO HELP THIS FLOWER BLOSSOM.
IT'S FULLY EQUIPPED WITH EVERYTHING YOU'LL NEED.
UNDER-STAND?

...AND NOBUO SHIRAKAWA ON HAIR.
...WILL BE RYOUHEI MATSUDA ON WARDROBE FASHION..
THESE TWO ARE SPECIALISTS, SO FEEL FREE TO ASK THEM ANYTHING.
HOO BOY!
WAIT...HE WAS REALLY A SHE? DID I MISS THE OPERATION?
DETAILS ARE IRRELEVANT!
I...I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE.
I'M AFRAID NOT
AHEM!
TAKAMASA... YOU'RE NOT ASSISTING?
ASSISTING YOU...

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I'M GOIN' BACK TO OSAKA!
I'LL BUY YOU A HUNDRED TICKETS IF YOU LIKE.
IT'S LIKE A NON-REFUNDABLE TICKET!
Besides...
BUT FIRST YOU MUST COME WITH ME!
SO NO MORE ARGUING, OKAY?!
.....
okay.

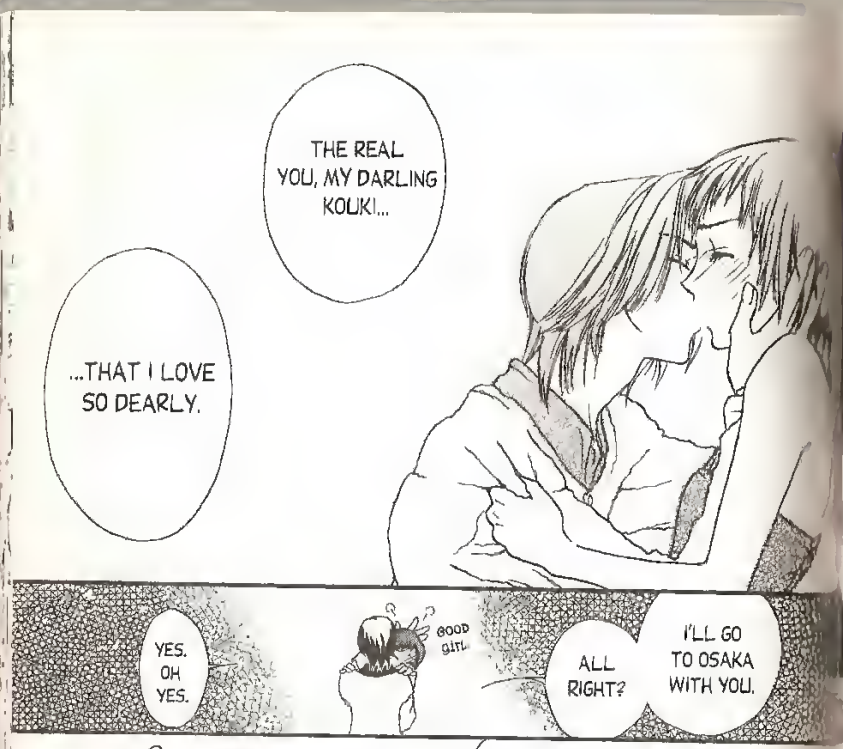
WELL, I CLOSED THE FLOWER SHOP LIKE YOU SAID..
...BUT WHAT'S WITH THIS CRAZY GET-UP?
It's like some weirdo space suit.
...ON WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?
MASTER, NOW CAN YOU FILL ME IN...
TOSHI-KUN...

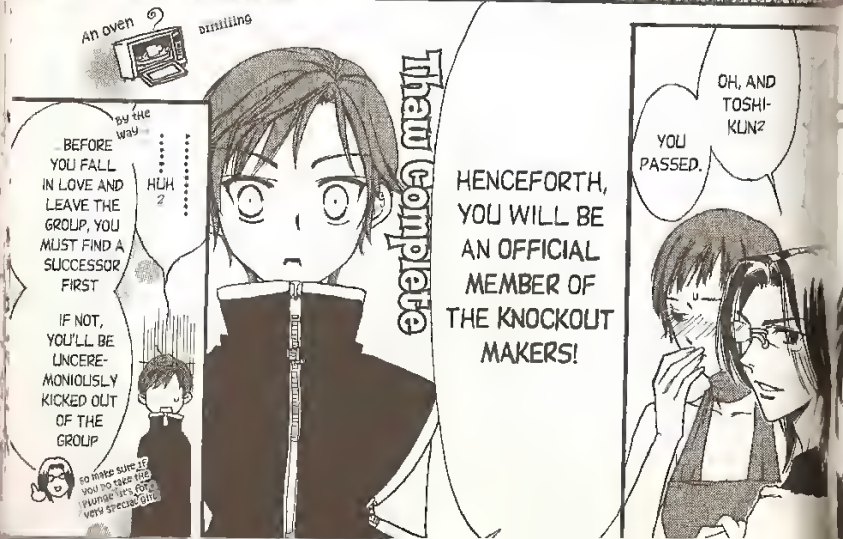
...YOUR PERSONAL "TULIP BATH."
AFTER THE TULIP AROMA RELAXES THE BODY AND SOUL.
FIRST OF ALL...
..WE'LL USE RAINWATER AND A MUD BATH TO TREAT YOUR SKIN.
CONSIDER IT.
...MINERAL-LADEN BATH SALT INTAKE WILL STIMULATE PERSPIRATION.
NEXT COMES KUROZU VINEGAR AND HONEY MINT TEA.
HONEY
THE MINT WILL REFRESH, WHILE THE KUROZU REINVIGORATES YOU.
NOW NOBUO-KUN WILL WORK HIS MAGIC! ♡
HMM, YOU'RE TALL--LIKE A MODEL.
I'D SAY WE'RE A GOOD MATCH.
HOWEVER, I MUST LIVE UP TO THE SWEET FLOWER YOU'RE NAMED AFTER. SO..
..AND GRADED BOBS ON TOP, WITH AN ASYMMETRICAL FRONT TO HIGHLIGHT THE EYES
SHE'S ALL YOURS, WIZ-KID. SHOW US WHAT YOU'VE GOT ♫
..I'D GO WITH DEEP RED VIOLET GLOSS TO MIMIC THE VOLCANIC ROCK RHYOLITE...

HE'S A STRAIGHT-A COLOMBIA UNIVERSITY ART MAJOR.
DO NOT ALLOW APPEARANCES TO DECEIVE.
ESPECIALLY IF IT'S SOME WET BEHIND THE EARS KID THAT'S REPLACING YOU.
HE IS A RARE SPECIMEN A TRULY CAPABLE ARTIST.
HE IS ALSO..
Is that so..?
HEY!!
OH, I SEE...
I RESPECT YOUR DECISION THOUGH I SERIOUSLY DOUBT YOUR SKILL WITH MAKEUP CAN BE REPLACED.
...MY MOST GIFTED AND PRIZED PUPIL.
!
...THE "TULIP" WITHIN YOU BLOOM!!
KOUKI-SAN...
...I PROMISE I WILL MAKE...
BUT WHAT IS MAKE-UP, IF NOT PAINT FOR THE HUMAN BODY?
SURE, THIS MAY BE HIS FIRST TIME APPLYING MAKEUP...

HOLY...! WOW!
BUT, IS IT NOT ODD TO HAVE ON THIS MUCH RED?
OH NO. ON THE CONTRARY. YOU'RE SIMPLY... BEAUTIFUL.
TAKAMASA-SAN..

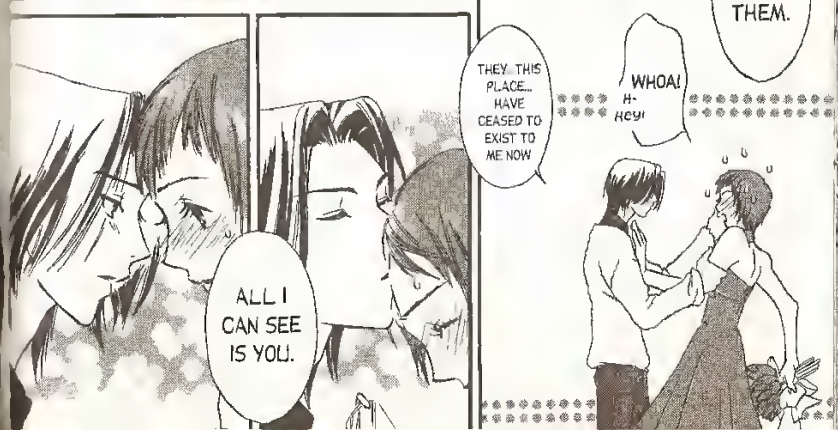
"THEIR DESIRES VARY WITH THE MOMENT."
"SOMETIMES THEY NEED TO BE TRIMMED..."
I KNOW! EYEBROWS!!
SEEK WHAT YOU MUST TRIM.
ボソ!
EASIER SAID THAN DONE!
TRIM, HE SAYS...
MASTER?
OKAY...
..THEN BROWN POWDER TO THICKEN THE THIN PORTIONS.
THEN I'LL ADD BROWN MASCARA FOR SOFT COLORING.
AFTER BRUSHING LIGHTLY, I'LL TRACE YOUR EYEBROWS WITH A BROWN PENCIL FOR CURVED CONTOUR, CUTTING ANY EXCESS HAIRS
..AND SOME BLACK LIQUID LINE ON THE UPPER LASH
APPLY CLEAR CREAM SHADOW GLOSS OVER EVERYTHING
YOU'RE ALL DONE!
PHEW!
FINALLY, SINCE YOUR LIP COLOR IS SO FAINT, I'LL CENTER WITH RED LIPSTICK, BUT BORDER WITH CHERRY PINK RED GLOSS.


THE REAL YOU, MY DARLING KOUKI...
...THAT I LOVE SO DEARLY.
YES. OH YES.
GOOD GIRL
ALL RIGHT?
I'LL GO TO OSAKA WITH YOU.


An oven
drrrilling
By the way
BEFORE YOU FALL IN LOVE AND LEAVE THE GROUP, YOU MUST FIND A SUCCESSOR FIRST
IF NOT, YOU'LL BE UNCEREMONIOUSLY KICKED OUT OF THE GROUP
HUH ?
To make sure if you do take the plunge it's for a very special girl
Thaw Complete
HENCEFORTH, YOU WILL BE AN OFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE KNOCKOUT MAKERS!
YOU PASSED.
OH, AND TOSHI-KUN?

RED...
...LOOKS GOOD ON YOUR LIPS.
I...
UM...

Frozen Over
PEOPLE ARE W-WATCHING
Ooooh!
OH...
WH-WHAT RE YOU ?
HMPH


ALL I CAN SEE IS YOU.
LET THEM.
THEY... THIS PLACE... HAVE CEASED TO EXIST TO ME NOW
WHOA!
H-Hey!

YOU DON'T LIKE SCARY STUFF, TOSHI-KUN?
OH my...
HOW CAN YOU SAY SOMETHING SO CREEPY WITH A STRAIGHT FACE?!
GUESS THERE'S "UNOPENED GATES" EVERYWHERE
WHAT? TH-THAT'S NOT--
Hey, Wait!
K.O.M.'s Bonus Arrange
COOH! I WONDER WHAT IT'LL DO?!
WHO KNOWS?
Wha...?!
WHAT IS THIS "INITIALIZATION CURSE" ANYWAY?
K.O.M.'S SALON HAS A FITNESS ROOM, CONDOMINIUM AND LIVE-IN MAID.
YOU'D THINK IT HAS EVERYTHING, BUT..
Let's go!!
MAYBE IT'LL TURN US ALL INTO BROTHERS!
BUT INSIDE THE TEMPLE...
WE WOULD SELL TICKETS TO TOURISTS AT SOME RICKETY TEMPLE
Looky!
NOBUO AND I WOULD HAVE YOUR LAST NAME...
AND YOUR COAT LINERS WOULD BE FILLED WITH ACUPUNCTURE NEEDLES.
...YOU'D FIND A CURSED MASK.
KEEP OUT
DANGER
BEWARE OF INITIALIZATION CURSE
WHAT'S WITH THAT DOOR?

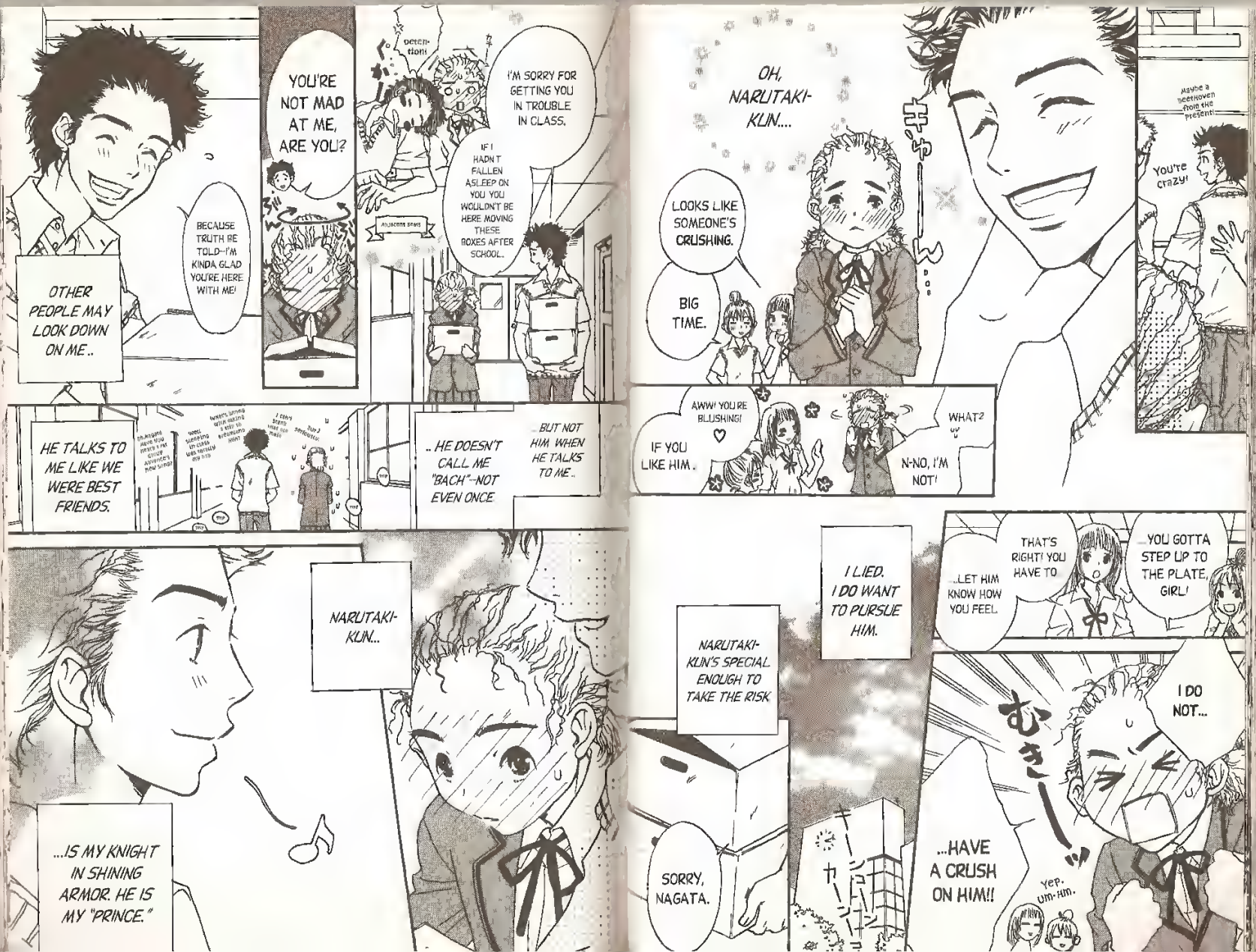
I GOTTA HAND IT TO YA YOU SURE MADE THAT FLOWER BLOOM, TOSHI-KUN!
Let's!
COME VISIT US IN OSAKA IF YOU'RE EVER IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!
...THANK YOU!
OH! UM...
AND DON'T WORRY-- YOU'LL BE FINE. YOU ALL WILL!
FEH. IT WAS PASSABLE. YOU HAVE... POTENTIAL.
HMPH.
Bye-bye!
I MEAN IT, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!
OH where will you go, my lovely flower...?
...WAS A SMASH HIT.
zoned out
AND WITH THAT, TOSHIHIRO, K.O.M.'S NEWEST MEMBER.
Kids can be such pains.
➡Boys & girls, be ambitious!!
CHAPTER 4 / END

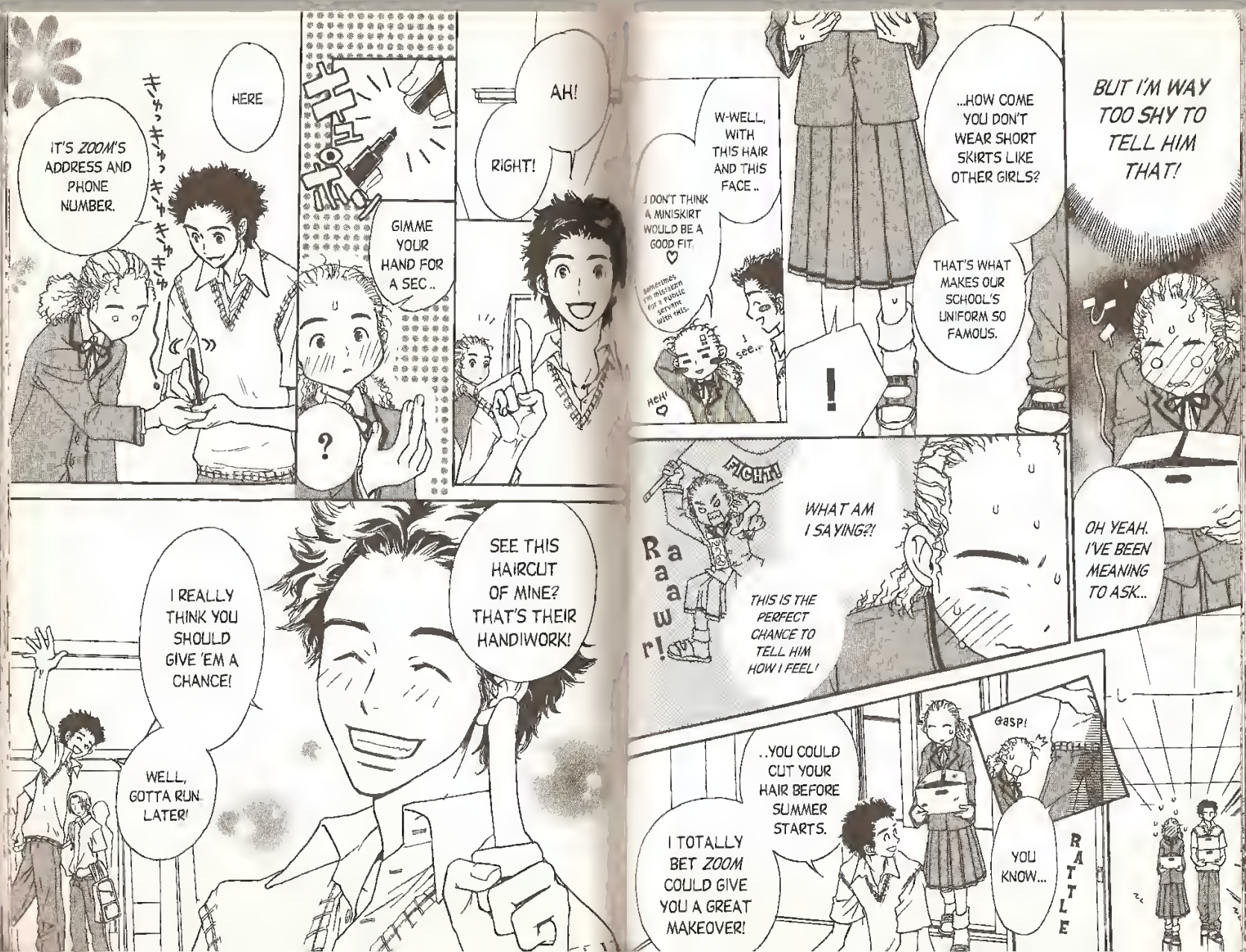
...CHECK OUT YOUR HAIR, GIRLFRIEND
WHICH REMINDS ME, EMIKO..
MUSIC ROOM
WHEW! IT'S SO HOT!
SUMMER BREAK'S ALMOST HERE.
DON'T TELL ME FORTUNETELLING AGAIN?
UGH! IT'S USELESS!
THAT'S ME EMIKO 'BAD HAIR DAY" NAGATA, HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR
YOU HAVE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
WOULD YOU FORGET THAT CRAP AND SKIP TO THE FASHION PAGES ALREADY?!
A BIT OF EMIKO TRIVIA--I LIKE THE WORD "FATE"
AND FOR THE THOUSANDTH TIME... THANKS, BUT NO THANKS.
A KNOCK- WHAT NOW?
THE KNOCKOUT MAKERS ALL ABIDE BY IT.
AH. BUT FATE'S A GREAT THING!
HUH?

DON'T WORRY, THERE'S NOT ACTUALLY A ROOM LIKE THAT (PROBABLY). THE REAL CHAPTER BEGINS ON THE NEXT PAGE.

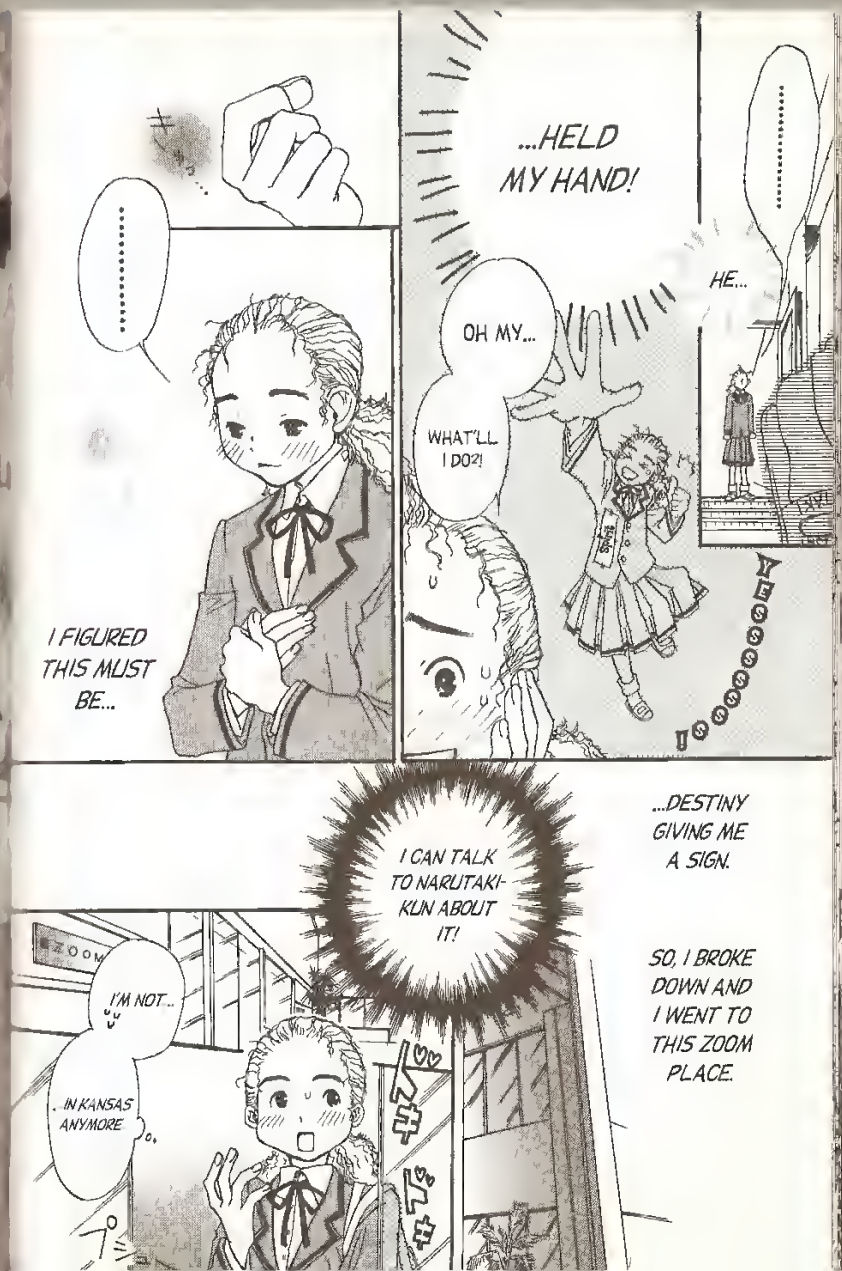
THEIR CELL PHONE WEBSITES UP FOR ONLY TEN MINUTES AT MIDNIGHT.
IF A POTENTIAL CLIENT IS LUCKY...
...SHE'LL BE PICKED FOR A LIFE-CHANGING MAKEOVER.
THE KNOCKOUT MAKERS...
...ARE A MYSTERIOUS GROUP OF BEAUTICIANS.
The Knockout Makers:
CHAPTER 5

ALL IT TAKES IS THE RIGHT HEARTLESS BOY AT THE RIGHT TIME TO RUIN YOUR SOCIAL LIFE
AFTER THAT, NO AMOUNT OF TRIMMING OR STYLING WOULD SHAKE THE STIGMA
Bach! Bach!
DUDE, CHECK OUT EMIKO'S 'FRO! SHE KINDA LOOKS LIKE BACH! HAW!
HIS PICTURE WAS NEXT TO BEETHOVEN'S IN ELEMENTARY MUSIC CLASS
...ONE OF THE MAJOR CLASSICAL ARTISTS.
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685~1750)
OH ..SO YOU'RE "BACH" NAGATA?
I MEAN, HOW COULD I APPROACH A BOY WITH MY HEART WOUNDED SO?
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770~1827)
DUDE, ONLY YOUR HAIR MATCHES
YOU DON'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE HIM
YeaH?
DANG. I COULD'VE SWORN I DID
WELL THEN...
...I GUESS IT'S ONLY FAIR THAT I BE "BEETHOVEN" TETSUSHI!
YOU KNOW, THAT'S NOT SUCH A BAD IDEA
.. SO SHE CAN FINALLY NAB THE MAN OF HER DREAMS!
SHE SHOULD GO TO THE SALON
HEY NARUTAKI MAYBE YOU CAN CONVINCE EMIKO TO GIVE THEM A TRY!
OH YEAH?
THERE IS THIS "ZOOM" SHOP...
!
Gasp!
WHAT?!
...THAT I HAVE A GOOD FEELING ABOUT!
YOU CAN'T GET BLOOD FROM A TURNIP...JUST LIKE YOU CAN'T SQUEEZE "ROCK 'N' ROLL" FROM A "BACH" GIRL.
I'M AFRAID THAT DOG WON'T HUNT, TETSUSHI!
HUH?
What the..?
BACH IS...
.....


OTHER PEOPLE MAY LOOK DOWN ON ME..
BECAUSE TRUTH BE TOLD--I'M KINDA GLAD YOU'RE HERE WITH ME!
YOU'RE NOT MAD AT ME, ARE YOU?
detention
I'M SORRY FOR GETTING YOU IN TROUBLE IN CLASS.
IF I HADN'T FALLEN ASLEEP ON YOU YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE MOVING THESE BOXES AFTER SCHOOL.
Mizuoono says
HE TALKS TO ME LIKE WE WERE BEST FRIENDS.
.. HE DOESN'T CALL ME "BACH"--NOT EVEN ONCE
.. BUT NOT HIM WHEN HE TALKS TO ME..
NARUTAKI-KUN...
...IS MY KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR. HE IS MY "PRINCE."
OH, NARUTAKI-KUN....
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S CRUSHING.
BIG TIME.
Maybe a BeeHoven from the present!
You're crazy!
AWW! YOU'RE BLUSHING! ♡
IF YOU LIKE HIM.
WHAT?
N-NO, I'M NOT!
I LIED. I DO WANT TO PURSUE HIM.
NARUTAKI-KUN'S SPECIAL ENOUGH TO TAKE THE RISK
SORRY, NAGATA.
..LET HIM KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU HAVE TO
..YOU GOTTA STEP UP TO THE PLATE, GIRL!
I DO NOT...
むきーっ!
...HAVE A CRUSH ON HIM!!
Yep. Um-hm.


HERE
IT'S ZOOM'S ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER.
キュッキュッキュッキュッ
GIMME YOUR HAND FOR A SEC..
?
AH!
RIGHT!
I REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD GIVE 'EM A CHANCE!
WELL, GOTTA RUN. LATER!
SEE THIS HAIRCUT OF MINE? THAT'S THEIR HANDIWORK!
W-WELL, WITH THIS HAIR AND THIS FACE..
I DON'T THINK A MINISKIRT WOULD BE A GOOD FIT.
Sometimes I'm mistaken for a public servant with this.
I see...
HEH!
...HOW COME YOU DON'T WEAR SHORT SKIRTS LIKE OTHER GIRLS?
!
THAT'S WHAT MAKES OUR SCHOOL'S UNIFORM SO FAMOUS.
BUT I'M WAY TOO SHY TO TELL HIM THAT!
OH YEAH. I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK...
FIGHT!
Raaawr!
WHAT AM I SAYING?!
THIS IS THE PERFECT CHANCE TO TELL HIM HOW I FEEL!
Gasp!
..YOU COULD CUT YOUR HAIR BEFORE SUMMER STARTS.
I TOTALLY BET ZOOM COULD GIVE YOU A GREAT MAKEOVER!
YOU KNOW...
RATTLE

WELL, HELLO THERE! COME IN, COME IN!
POP IDOL's
IF YOU DON'T HAVE AN APPOINTMENT, I'M SORRY, BUT..
SORRY, BUT ZOOM IS AN APPOINTMENT-ONLY SALON.
ZOOM
THIS ISN'T LIKE THE LOCAL BEAUTY PARLORS!
HOLY...!
MISS WHO DO YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH, AND WHEN?
SOOO...I TAKE IT YOU DON'T HAVE ONE?
Appointment?
HUH?
APPOINTMENT..ONLY..?
Pfft!
THEY'RE...
LAUGHING AT ME?!


I FIGURED THIS MUST BE...
...HELD MY HAND!
OH MY...
WHAT'LL I DO?!
HE...
I CAN TALK TO NARUTAKI-KUN ABOUT IT!
...DESTINY GIVING ME A SIGN.
SO, I BROKE DOWN AND I WENT TO THIS ZOOM PLACE.
ZOOM
I'M NOT..
..IN KANSAS ANYMORE

I'M THE ONLY ORDINARY GIRL HERE!
I'M SO OUT OF PLACE!
EVERYONE HERE IS SO SMART AND GOOD-LOOKING
WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A--MISS? MISS?!
O-OH! OKAY! HEH! S-SORRY I WASTED YOUR T-TIME!
I COULDN'T GET OUT OF THERE FAST ENOUGH.
I MAY AS WELL ACCEPT IT.
I'M GONNA BE "THAT BACH GIRL" ALL MY LIFE!
HEY, YOU!
IT'S A BIG, WIDE WORLD TO BE WALKING ALONE AT NIGHT, SIS.
!
YOU MUST BE OFF WORK, EH?
WELL, YOU CAN COME HANG AT MY SHOP.
OOKAAY.
WHO IS THIS GUY?!
And who goes around calling people "sis"?
ER.. S-SORRY. I, UM, HAVE TO MEET SOMEONE..
IS THAT A FACT?
YOU'RE LYING.
NOW COME WITH ME LIKE A GOOD LITTLE GIRL.
OH NO! I'M BEING KIDNAPPED!!
LET... ME... GO--!!
AW... DON'T CRY, DARLIN'.
HUH?!
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT FOR BEING LATE.

WINNER
HMPH.
SORRY, PAL, BUT THIS IS...
...MY "PRINCESS."
PUNCH
YOU? ERM..
...LET SOMEONE LIKE THAT GET YOU.
YOU REALLY CAN'T...
DID HE SAY "PRINCESS"?!
Complete defeat
THIS IS YOUR STOP!
DING!
PLUS HE JUST DIDN'T SMELL RIGHT LIKE CHEAP COLOGNE AND HAIR GEL..
*CATCH HOST: A STAFF FROM A CABARET CLUB WHO GUIDES PATRONS FROM OFF THE STREET
HE'S THE WORST KIND OF CATCH HOST*..
...GOING AFTER NAIVE GIRLS SUCH AS YOURSELF.
SORRY FOR THE DELAY!
BUT I'M HERE NOW! SO LET'S BE OFF, SHALL WE? ♡
HOW DARE YOU STEAL MY CUSTOMER!
I'VE A GOOD MIND TO--
WHERE ARE YOU--?!
WH-WHAT?
WAIT--!!
HOLD it!
Hey!
EEEP!
S-SIR? I-I THINK YOU HAVE THE W-WRONG GIRL!
SIR?

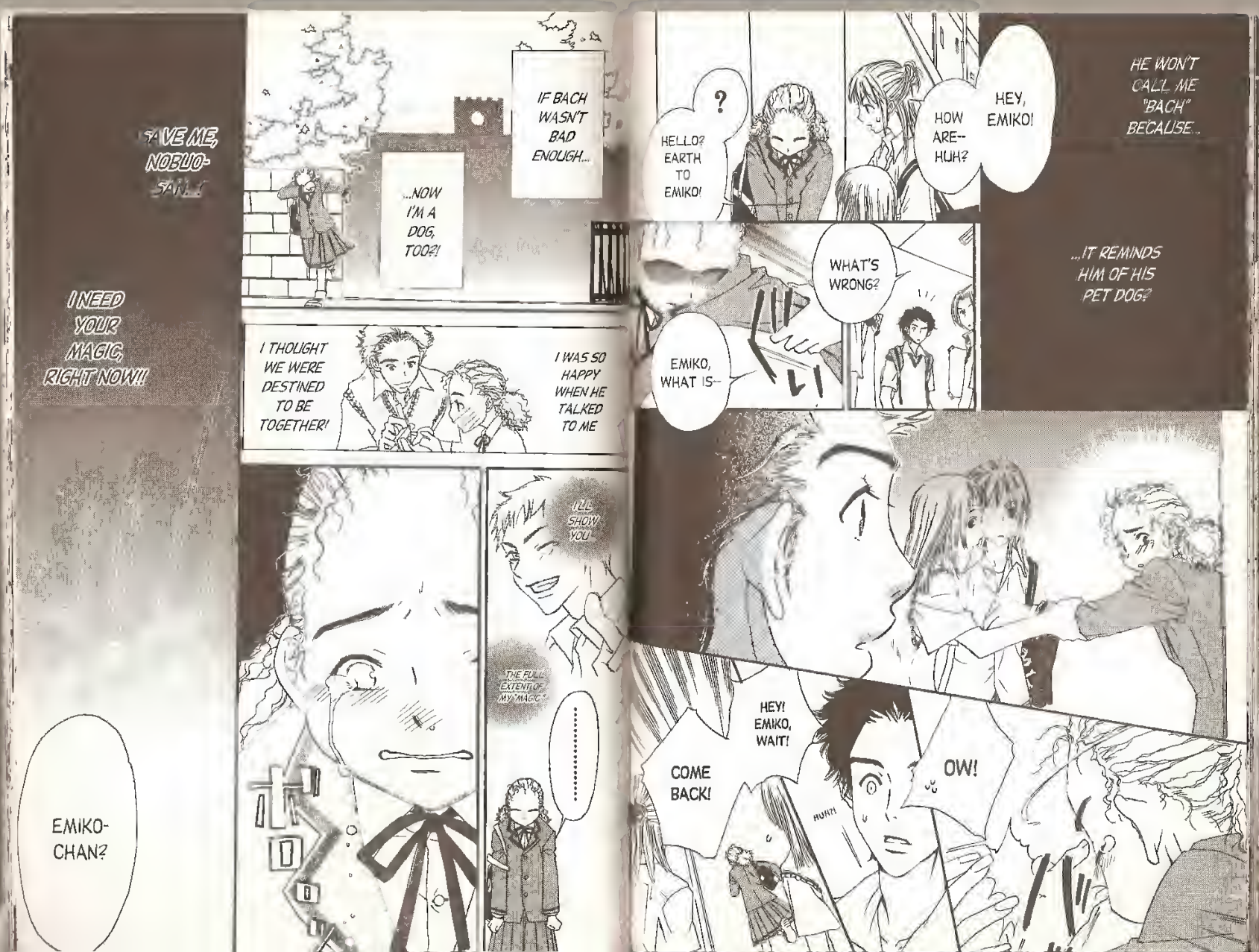
ORDER STUFF → DEBT → WORK IN SLEAZY TOKYO CLUBS
WHAT'LL I DO...?!
IN THAT CASE
THIS NOBUO GUY'S A HOST, TOO IF I ORDER STUFF...
TA--
N-NO THANKS...
TAP WATER, P-PLEASE.
UM...
CHAMPAIGN? WINE?
SOMETHING TO DRINK MAYBE?
THIS IS NOBUO'S HOBBY, YOU SEE.
HE VOLUNTEERS TO HELP NEEDY GIRLS
THAT'S RIGHT!
RELAX, DARLIN'! DON'T WORRY ABOUT PAYING FOR ANYTHING. IT'S ALL MY TREAT!
THERE WE GO. YOU FINALLY LAUGHED
QUIT EATING MY FOOD!
The free ride doesn't include you losers!
Ha Ha Ha
Ha Ha!
HEY!
HUH?
THOUGH HE DOES GETS MISTAKEN FOR A HOST A LOT! ♡
WELCOME...
CLUB Avalon
...TO "CLUB AVALON"!
BUT THIS IS...!
!! ! ! ! !
MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME, MY PRINCESS. ♡
PRINCESS EMIKO?
CARE FOR SOME FRUIT...
He's a catcher, too!
HE TRICKED ME!!

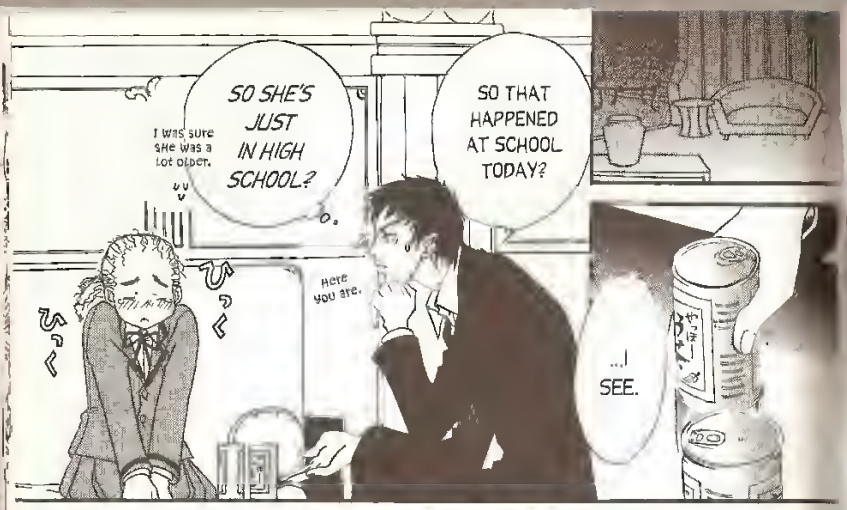
...REALLY IS A MAGICIAN... BECAUSE I FELT MUCH BETTER.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU OUT SO LATE.
...BUT MY PLACE DOESN'T CLOSE UNTIL LATE.
...COME BACK AS A CUSTOMER NEXT TIME.
I'LL SHOW YOU THE FULL EXTENT OF MY "MAGIC."
NO, I'M THE ONE WHO'S SORRY.
YOU SAVED ME, AND, UM...
I DIDN'T PROPERLY THANK YOU
He's so cute!
Get his picture quick!
SO, DID YOU AT LEAST HAVE FUN?
...OH YES!
OH..
IN THAT CASE..
HUH?

AHA HA!
OH my!
...I CAN'T LIE. IT ISN'T TOTALLY WITHOUT BENEFITS. I GET PRESENTS BY THE CARTLOAD.
YEAH, WELL.
AND HEY, I LOVE MONEY AS MUCH AS THE NEXT BLOKE
BUT...
I'M SORRY... BUT THIS IS JUST BIT ODD
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A "HOST" WHO TREATS A GIRL
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ALL COLD-HEARTED SCROOGES.
OH! I M- I MEAN
...I WOULD LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN TO SEND YOU OUT THAT DOOR
...FEELING AS A TRUE PRINCESS SHOULD
IT TURNS OUT NOBUO...
...TO MAKE A LONELY PRINCESS HAPPY, I SHALL BECOME YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT.
IF YOU WOULD ALLOW ME TO WORK MY MAGIC...

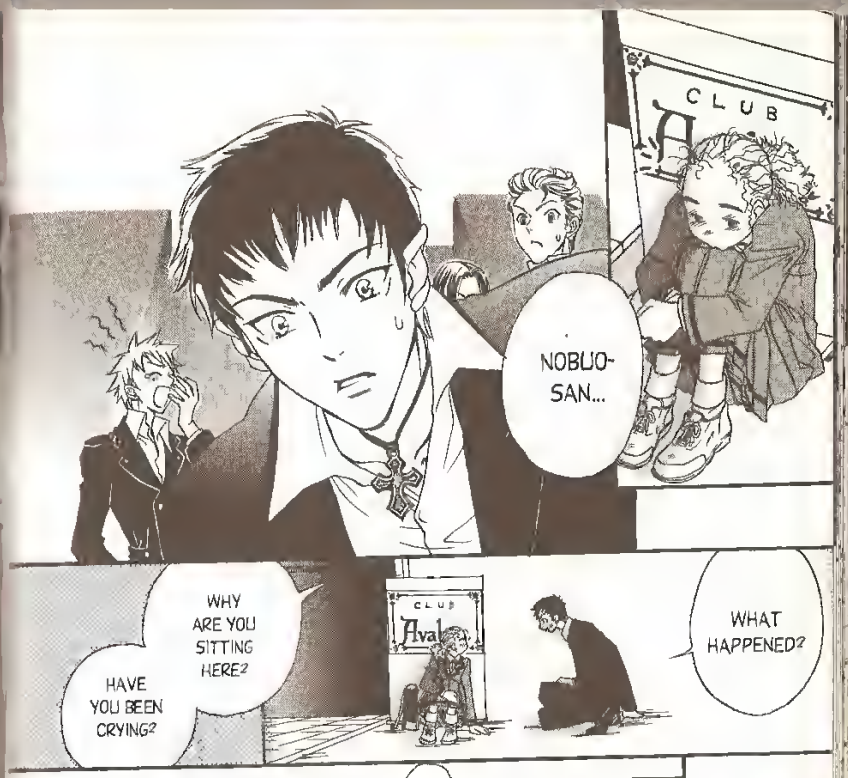
HMM... I WONDER IF THAT'S WHY
NOBUO'S SO RELAXED
HIS FACE LOOKS DIFFERENT, THOUGH
I SPOKE TO NOBUO-SAN...
...FOR SO LONG YESTERDAY
NOW WHEN I LOOK AT NARUTAKI-KUN..
...I NOTICE HE SMILES JUST LIKE NOBUO-SAN.
THEN, I THINK I CAN FINALLY TALK TO NARUTAKI-KUN!
NO, I'M SERIOUS!
WELL, HERE GOES EVERYTHING!
I THINK TODAY...
..AT THE LEAST, I CAN TELL HIM "GOOD MORNING"!
OH... I just realized...
He is too cute!
EVEN NOBUO-SAN'S SMILE...
...SEEMED MAGICAL.
..A NORMAL CONVERSATION WITH A GUY
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER HAD
AND FOR THAT...
...I'M TRULY THANKFUL.
THERE HE IS...
NARUTAKI-KUN!

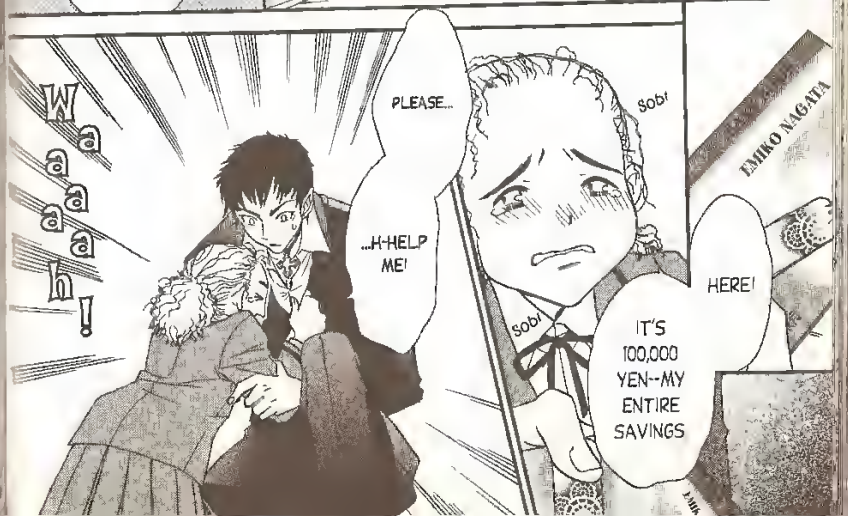
HE REALLY IS MY PRINCE OF DESTINY...
THEN THERE'D BE TWO BACHS.
...and always looking sad.
He's hairy all over.
IT'S JUST IF I CALL HER THAT...
...I'LL HAVE TO FIGHT THE IMPULSE TO SAY "C'MERE, GIRL!"
A...DOG?
OH YEAH...
YOU MEAN THAT SHAGGY MUTT AT YOUR HOUSE!
WHAT...?
HE'S TALKING ABOUT ME!
NARUTAKI-KUN TH-THINKS I'M...
...F-F--
IT IS FUN...
...BEING AROUND NAGATA!
OOOH!
Really?
Bach's heart jumping for joy.
...FUUUN!!!
BACH NEVER... WELL, SAYS ANYTHING.
I MEAN...
OH, MY GOD!
DUDE!
DON'T CALL HER "BACH"!
NARUTAKI-KUN'S... STANDNG UP FOR ME?
HUH? WHY NOT?


SAVE ME, NOBUO-SAN!!
I NEED YOUR MAGIC, RIGHT NOW!!
EMIKO-CHAN?
IF BACH WASN'T BAD ENOUGH...
...NOW I'M A DOG, TOO?!
I THOUGHT WE WERE DESTINED TO BE TOGETHER!
I WAS SO HAPPY WHEN HE TALKED TO ME
I'LL SHOW YOU
THE FULL EXTENT OF MY MAGIC
.....
HEY, EMIKO!
HOW ARE-- HUH?
?
HELLO? EARTH TO EMIKO!
WHAT'S WRONG?
EMIKO, WHAT IS--
HE WON'T CALL ME "BACH" BECAUSE..
...IT REMINDS HIM OF HIS PET DOG?
HEY! EMIKO, WAIT!
COME BACK!
HUH?!
OW!


SO SHE'S JUST IN HIGH SCHOOL?
I was sure she was a lot older.
SO THAT HAPPENED AT SCHOOL TODAY?
Here you are.
...I SEE.

BUT YOU'RE DIFFERENT, NOBUO-SAN!
MAYBE MEETING YOU WAS MY REAL DESTINY!
I MEAN, I'M ABLE TO TALK TO YOU SO EFFORT-LESSLY, WE COU--
HOLD UP.
BUT I REALLY DID THINK I'D FOUND MY "PRINCE OF DESTINY"!
I KNOW I'M NOT THE PRETTIEST GIRL...
I REALLY THOUGHT NARUTAKI-KUN WAS THE ONE...
BUT NOW I SEE.
...HE'S NO DIFFERENT FROM THE REST!


CLUB
NOBUO-SAN...
CLUB Ava
WHY ARE YOU SITTING HERE?
HAVE YOU BEEN CRYING?
WHAT HAPPENED?


Waaaaah!
PLEASE...
...H-HELP ME!
Sob!
Sob!
EMIKO NAGATA
HERE!
IT'S 100,000 YEN--MY ENTIRE SAVINGS

I DESIRE...
PRETENDING?
...THIS "MAGIC MAN" CASTS HIS SPELL ON EVERYONE.
I WAS PRETENDING TO BE THE "PRINCE OF DESTINY" YOU DESIRE--AND NOTHING MORE
IS THIS REALLY ALL THE DOUGH YOU'VE GOT?
I MEAN, YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK THAT.
...A MERE 100,000 YEN...
WAS ENOUGH TO BUY THE SERVICES OF AVALON'S NUMBER TWO STYLIST, DID YOU?
HE'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM YESTERDAY!
I PLAY THE ROLE OF THE "IDEAL MAN" FOR LOTS OF PEOPLE...
..JUST LIKE I DID FOR YOU YESTERDAY.
IN OTHER WORDS.
okay
WH-WHAT?
LISTEN CLOSELY
NO WAY...

...I, K.O.M.'S NOBUO SHIRAKAWA...
...HEREBY ACCEPT YOUR APPLICATION FOR BEAUTY!
YOU ARE QUITE A NUISANCE.
A HANDSOME FASHION EXPERT...
AND A TALL HAIR STYLIST AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT THE RUMOR IS.
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
EMIKO NAGATA-CHAN...

YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?
IF I MAY BE FRANK, IF YOU JUST WAIT..
..FOR YOUR PRINCE TO COME TO YOU, YOU MAY HAVE A VERY LONELY LIFE.
BUT, IF YOU REALLY CAN'T FACE YOUR PRINCE..
..CHECK OUT THIS WEBSITE AT EXACTLY MIDNIGHT, SHARP
HE SUGGESTED I TRY THE KNOCKOUT MAKERS THE MYSTERIOUS GROUP OF BEAUTICIANS.
..THAT CONSISTS OF A YOUNG MAKEUP ARTIST..
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!!
YOU TOLD HER WHAT?!

KINDA LIKE COTTON CANDY.
SEE?
FEELS NICER LIKE THIS, HUH?
SOME MOUSSE TREATMENT FOR A GENTLE DOWNWARD FLOW.
...SO WE'LL BIND THE ENDS UP.
AND FRAME YOUR FACE LINE WITH A SIDE CUT
...AND WAX TO REDUCE THE VOLUME IN BACK.
WE'LL TRIM THE INTERIOR HAIR ONLY.
I'LL USE A BROWN PENCIL TO STRAIGHTEN THE BROW AND FILL THE GAPS.
SO, I'LL APPLY LIGHT BROWN POWDER ON THE EDGE OF THE FACE.
A SMALL FACE EQUALS NO COLOR..
...AND NATURAL MOCHA SHADOWING, WITH LOTS OF MASCARA
...WITH A LARGE BRUSH.
LET'S PLAY WITH WAX AND PINS
NOW THAT THE BASE IS DONE.
HOW 'BOUT IT, TOSHIHIRO?
HMM...
LET'S SEE WHAT I CAN DO HERE

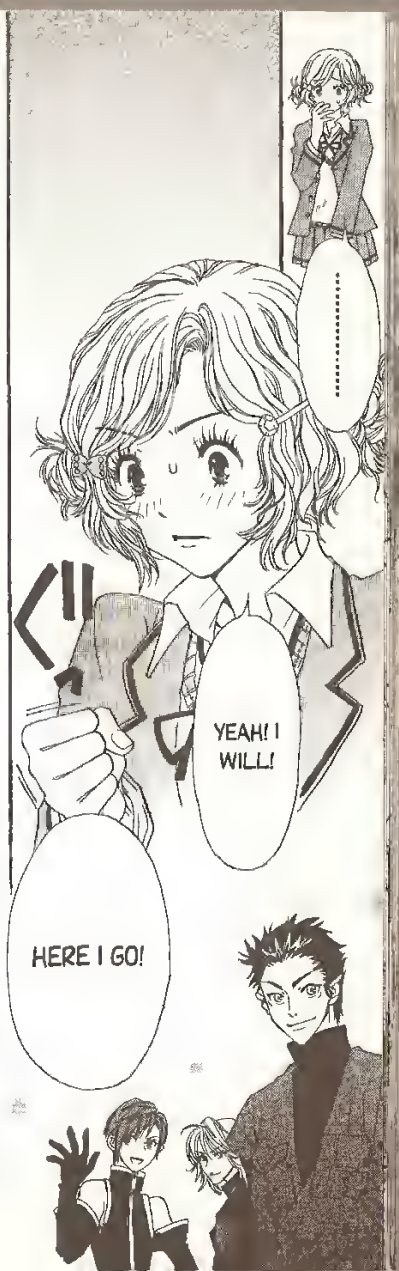
DISPLEASURE
MAX
FIRST THING...
WOULD YOU KINDLY TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES?
WELCOME ...TO THE K.O.M. SALON.
WH- WHAT?!
HUH?!
Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha!
Not Here, silly!
IN THE CHANGING ROOM!
...WE'RE GONNA EITHER CUT OR ARRANGE IT.
SEEING AS THERE'S NO WAY TO PUT A STOPPER ON YOUR FRIZZY HAIR...
YES.
AS "BACH."
NOW...?
I WANT YOU TO FIRST LIKE YOURSELF AS YOU ARE NOW, THOUGH.
YOU SAID YOU HATED THIS HAIR..

WOW! IT REALLY IS LIKE MAGIC!
NOW THEN, GO TO YOUR PRINCE AT ZOOM.
BE STRONG...
BE STRONG, AND DELIVER A "KNOCKOUT" PUNCH!

ニヤ
COME, PRINCESS..
...GRANT ME THY HAND.
YOUR TURN!
THROW IN A LITTLE PINK CREAM TO SOFTEN THE CHEEKS WHEN LAUGHING...
OF COURSE.
WE'LL NEED TO FIND CLOTHES THAT TRULY SUIT HER.
..AND APPLY FAINT PINK GLOSS TO THE LIPS.
FIRST, LENGTHENED THE ARMS SOMEWHAT.
WITH YOUR SLENDER BODY..
YOU WANT TO SHOW MORE LEG THAN LESS
ニヤリ

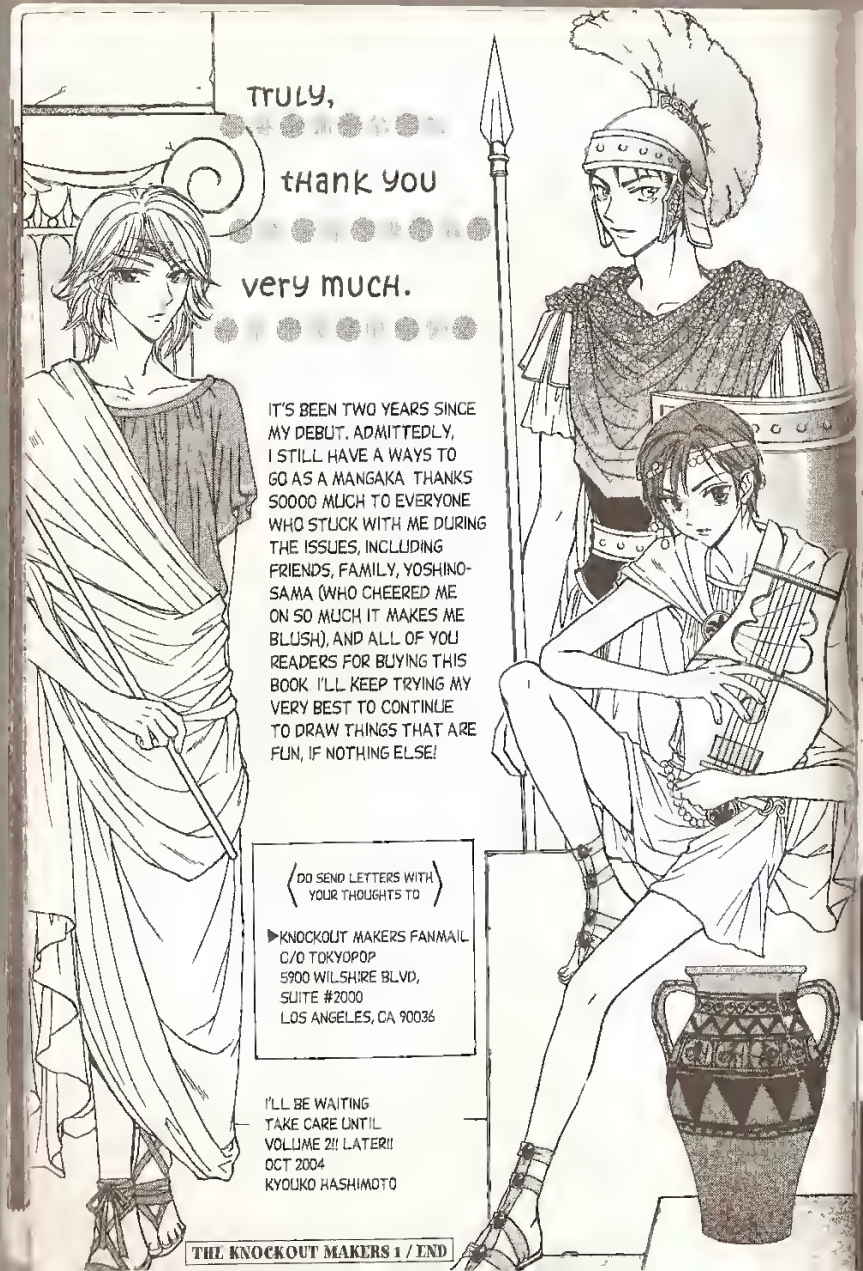
MAN! YOU REALLY CHANGED!
I MUSTN'T HESITATE! I MUST HOLD MY HEAD UP HIGH
JUST TALK TO HIM!
EMIKO?
IS THAT YOU?
I MAY NOT BE PERFECT...
I KNOW HOW EASY IT IS TO CONFUSE ME WITH YOUR DOG.
..I'M GLAD YOU USED MY PROPER NAME!
HEY, NARUTAKI-KUN...
..BUT I'M NOBODY'S DOG!
SO, UH, I MEAN...
Gasp!
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...

READY OR NOT, HERE I COME, NARUTAKI-KUN!
ZOOM
HUH?
WHO?
WOW!
IS TETSUSHI NARUTAKI-KUN IN?
ERM..


.....
YEAH! I WILL!
HERE I GO!

I HAVE SOMETHING...
...TO GIVE YOU.
YOU'RE NAGATA-SAMA, RIGHT?
YOU BET!
WHAT'S THIS?
READ SOMETHING FUNNY?
?
WHAT?
YEAH...
Heh heh!

ER, UM...
...I MEAN..
SORRY! I K-KINDA LOST IT J-JUST NOW!
THAT IS...
AAAH
IN FACT, IF YOU WANT...
EH?
I'M REALLY SORRY!
I WAS OUT OF LINE THIS MORNING!
..WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTINUE THIS CONVERSATION LATER?
FOR NOW ON, I'LL TAKE YOUR LEAD AND BE MORE FORTHCOMING!



IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE MY DEBUT. ADMITTEDLY, I STILL HAVE A WAYS TO GO AS A MANGAKA. THANKS SOOOO MUCH TO EVERYONE WHO STUCK WITH ME DURING THE ISSUES, INCLUDING FRIENDS, FAMILY, YOSHINO-SAMA (WHO CHEERED ME ON SO MUCH IT MAKES ME BLUSH), AND ALL OF YOU READERS FOR BUYING THIS BOOK. I'LL KEEP TRYING MY VERY BEST TO CONTINUE TO DRAW THINGS THAT ARE FUN, IF NOTHING ELSE!

DO SEND LETTERS WITH YOUR THOUGHTS TO

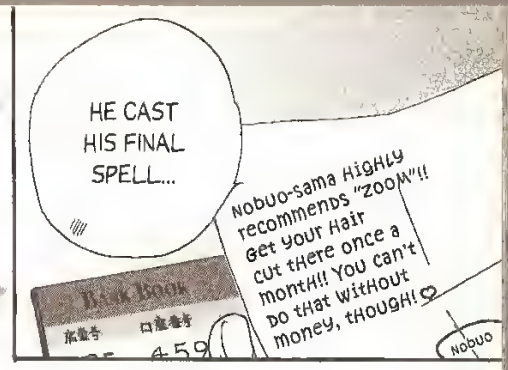
▶KNOCKOUT MAKERS FANMAIL
C/O TOKYOPOP
5900 WILSHIRE BLVD,
SUITE #2000
LOS ANGELES, CA 90036

I'LL BE WAITING
TAKE CARE UNTIL
VOLUME 2!! LATER!!
OCT 2004
KYOUKO HASHIMOTO

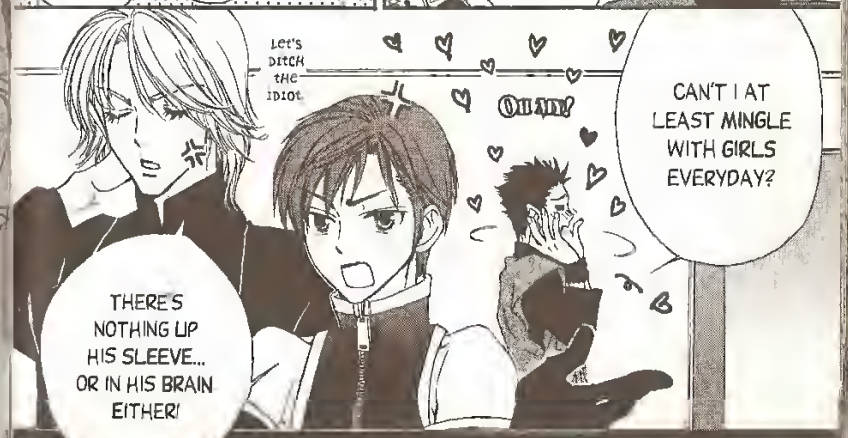
THE KNOCKOUT MAKERS 1 / END

THANK YOU...

...MY SWEET MAGICIAN


HE CAST HIS FINAL SPELL...
Nobuo-sama highly recommends "zoom"!! Get your hair cut there once a month!! You can't do that without money, though!
Bank Book
NOBUO

SO LOVE'S NOT ALLOWED IN K.O.M.
YOU'RE AROUND WAY TOO MANY WOMEN, NOBUO!
...PLAYING HOST MEANS...
I TOLD YOU...
...DUCKLING LEAVES MY NEST
AND ANOTHER



→*See you next Knockout!*

CHAPTER 5 / END